

Target Sports

By Albert Rukwaro

Rugby winning broad support

With rugby fast gaining ground in the country, the local governing body, Kenya Rugby Football Union (KRFU) has taken the cue and changed its constitution to reflect the needs of the growing sport.

The new constitution is fashioned from the South African version and brings in some radical changes which are bound to affect the sport in the country. Now there are six directors elected to run the union in collaboration with the four top rugby union officials.

The board under the new constitution will now have full powers to discipline any team involved in any skirmishes on the field unlike the old constitution which did not allow for any board action against indiscipline unless the referee filed an official complaint.

Rugby is a rough game which requires that almost discipline be exercised on the pitch. That the new constitution caters heavily for discipline is a good step forward.

During the annual general meeting, all the former top officials were re-elected with Dennis Awori taking the chairmanship for the fourth term running. Tom Oketch was elected vice-chairman, Zack Oloo secretary, Sam Agutu treasurer and Sadik Makili the fixture secretary.

As the game gains popularity, it is important for the union officials to work towards improving the standards of the sport by introducing it to many schools and encouraging the formation of other clubs.

In the meantime, a squad of 26 youngsters has been named to start training for the schools' tour of South Africa in July.

Those selected started their residential training at Saint Mary's School, Nairobi, on May 14. They will later go into residential training at the Kenya Science Teachers' College.



Nigeria striker Emmanuel Amunike (right) beats Zambian Harrison Chongo to the ball during last month's African Nations cup final in Tunis. Amunike is playing for Egypt's Zamalek.

Wrangling hurting women's chance in championships

With the second Africa Women's Hockey Championships only four months away, the last thing that the Kenya Ladies Hockey Association should do is to entangle itself in an endless power struggle.

But that is exactly what is happening in the young organisation, jeopardising the chances of the Kenyan team during the championships scheduled for Nairobi in August and September.

The association has for over 9 years been embroiled in leadership wrangles and protracted gender struggles with some men trying to take leadership positions in the body as women bitterly resist such moves.

The women, led by chairlady Rogo-Manduli, are demanding that the association, being a ladies' affair, be entirely left to them to run, a demand that has been met with a lot of resistance from the men in the

organisation. The association, which was started by the late Tobias Oduor, had over short period of time established itself in the world of hockey with the Kenyan team passing as one of the leading sides on the continent.

Oduor worked hard to build the team from scratch and help it qualify for the world championships in Terassa, Spain. It thus became the African queens in the process.

The association was expected to organise a number of international friendlies this month as part of its preparations for the Africa championships but the wrangles have made it almost impossible for any such plans to materialise.

Although leaders are necessary in the functioning of any organisation, it is important that the current interim committee be left alone to organise the Africa championships and prepare

the Kenyan side for the event.

Strategies and preparations should be adopted and executed with the aim of grabbing the gold which eluded the team during the last championships in Zimbabwe last August. Kenya managed a bronze although the team was one of the hot title contenders.

As host, the Kenyans have a golden opportunity to win the title and it is sad that the officials charged with the responsibility of making the dream a reality are busy engaging in trivialities.

For the successful hosting of such an event, the association needs a lot of money, which can only be available through corporate sponsorship. Wrangles like the one currently affecting the association have the effect of scaring away potential sponsors as no organisation would like to be associated with a group of rowdy, disorganised sports administrators.

During the encounter at the City Stadium, the Kenyan side came out strongly and shed the sloppy performance it had registered in the league matches since the beginning of this year. The overhaul in the technical bench, which saw former coach Tom Olaba sidelined and his place taken by former Malawi international Reuben Malola seems to have greatly boosted the morale of the players and thus the team's performance.

Meanwhile, Kenya's other representatives in continental assignments, Gor Mahia, will have an uphill task winning their return leg match against Egypt's Zamalek FC in Cairo after the teams' one all draw in Nairobi.

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Leopards, Gor in trying moments

Kenya's representatives in the CAF cup tournament, AFC Leopards, left for Swaziland last weekend for the second round return leg match against Monen Pirates, whom they narrowly beat during rescheduled match at the City Stadium.

Leopards beat the Pirates 2-0 with the Swazis crying foul following the abandonment of the first match at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani after a heavy downpour and faulty floodlights rendered the facility useless.

At the time of the abandonment, the Pirates were leading by one goal and it appeared like the chances of the home winning the match were extremely slim.

In fact the Swazis have already protested to CAF, Africa's soccer governing body, but the federation's public relations man, Vicken Djizmedjan has indicated that the decision to stop the match was made in accordance with the CAF regulations.

However, when all is said and done, the Swazi team displayed classic football and it is a team that is well capable of turning the tables against the Kenyan champions especially since the Pirates will this time be playing in front of their own crowd.

Coach

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was clearly controlled by the home team and they temporarily reduced the cup's defending champions to the level of beginners with the superior ball control. In the Zamalek line-up was Nigeria's head of the Africa Cup of Nations Emmanuel Amunike who was constant raids on the Gor's defence however failed to score any fruits.

After the match, Gor coach Austin Oduor admitted that the team had an uphill task as Zamalek are known as the offensive side from the start when playing from home.

It was to the drawing board that aspects to make if he can in Cairo. The headway at least a 2-0 will need to follow the quarter-finals, those who are following football, because at least such a margin is a miracle. Gor will be to force the pace bank on the offensive from the start when playing from home.

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(John 8:3-36)

June 1-15 Price 15/=

Archbishop threatened

Letter to Kuria signed 'The Devil'

By James Katululu

The disciples of the anti-Christ have threatened, among other church leaders, the head of the Anglican Church in Kenya, Archbishop Masessa Kuria.

And Archbishop Kuria blames the spread of devil worship in the country to Freemasonry which, according to him, is headed by top leaders in the government.

He exclusively told *Target* that he was among top church leaders who had received threats from the self-styled leaders of the "devil's cult". He said they had sent him threatening letters.

The archbishop challenged the government to issue a comprehensive statement explaining why it scrapped religious education studies in the education curriculum.

"The fact that our children were stopped from this kind of education is very suspicious since this is what has encouraged them to turn to other forms of worship," he said.

The archbishop said that the Freemason Society had threatened its members, top officials of the government who he felt, were the same who abolished Christian Education in both primary and secondary schools.

He said that unless the government clearly spells out its stand on the issue, then Kenyans would be at a loss to know whether or not it supported devil worship in schools and other areas.

But the Grand Secretary of the Freemason Society in Kenya denied Archbishop Kuria's claims that it was involved in any sort of worship.

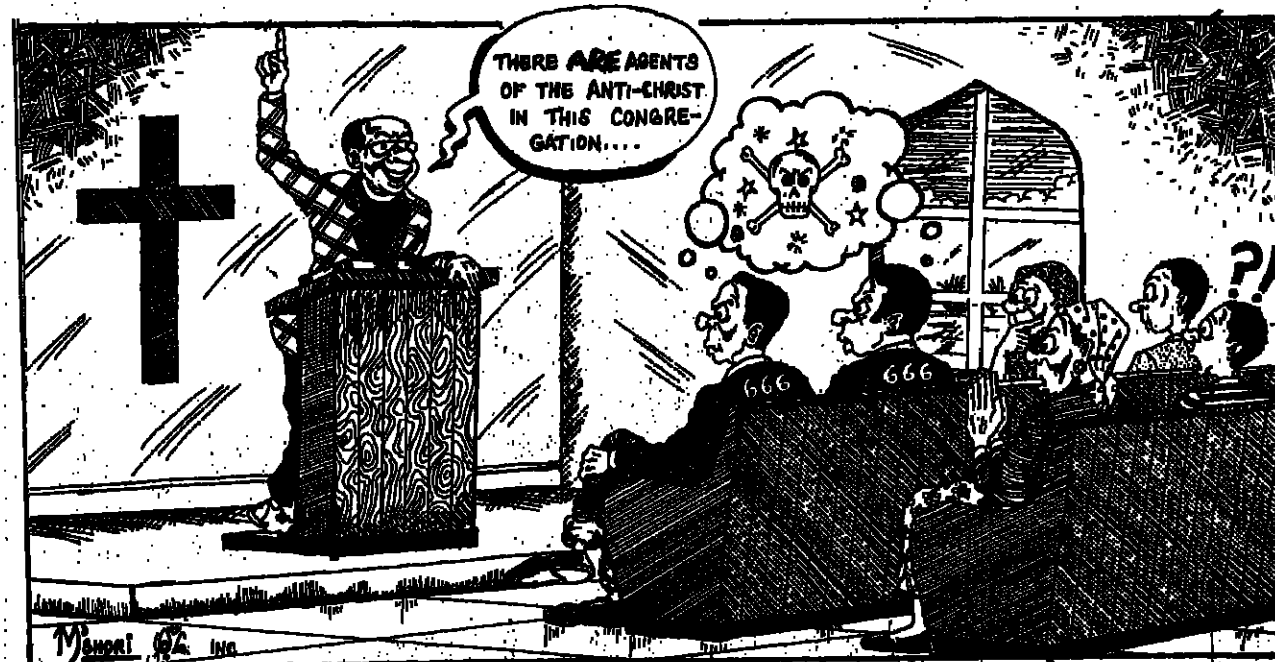
Mr David Long maintained that Freemasons were engaged in charity work and had private meetings as members with similar interests just like in any other private club.

Mr Long said his society never worshipped any 'one, be it the devil or otherwise since it was not in any way associated with religion.

He explained that Freemasonry was a society for people who understood each other and anybody above 21 years of age and financially able was eligible to join.

However, he said that women were not allowed in the society since its constitution, dating back to the 12th century, did not provide for their membership.

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Nyayo wards wasting away

By Jeff Mburu

The multi-million shilling Nairobi Province Nyayo Ward at Pumwani is wasting away.

Started in January 1987 and then abandoned towards the end of 1989, the huge one-storey building on about 30 acres of land had all been completed except for the final touches such as the installation of electricity, when Danny Construction Company left the site due to what *Target* learnt was lack of finance.

Situated opposite the famous Pumwani Maternity Hospital on Captain Wanjau Road, the Nairobi Province Nyayo Ward is showing signs of depletion with the white-painted walls peeling off and cracks appearing on some of the major partitions.

Two watchmen at the site told *Target* they were left behind when the construction company pulled out.

They said that this was not the only Nyayo Ward building which had stalled. One of them said before he was brought to the Pumwani site, he was guarding a similar structure at Kabaret, which could also not be completed.

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Swimming stars head for Kasarani

After a relative lull in the Kenyan swimming pools, action returns next weekend when top swimmers assemble at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani's aquatic pool for the Kenya Open Championships.

The championships, which almost failed to take off due to lack of funds, are expected to attract a large number of national and international stars as they will

also serve as the Victoria (Canada) Commonwealth Games trials.

According to Amateur Swimming Association of Kenya (ASAK) chairman John Gardner, the championships will be used as the initial trials while the swimmers for the Victoria games will be finally determined during the Shipping Line swimming championships to be held in Mombasa on June 11 and 12.

The association has, however, released a tentative list of eight swimmers set for the C's games although their participation will be determined during the trials. The swimmers were proposed during a Commonwealth committee meeting chaired by the games' chief, de mission Kipchoge Keino, to facilitate the speedy preparation of visas.

Although the proposed

players are not assured of a place in the team as they still have to go through the trials, their selection was based on consistency and performance during national events.

The selected swimmers are: current national champion Anthony Lihakha, his brother Albert, currently in Hawaii University, Kamal Shah, Edward Ikinya, Hassan Taib, Zubedj Swabryadi, Rahama Johnson and Cindy Robinson.

Although the proposed

National News

Beware the anti-Christ, warns Kuria

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time had come for the government and its functionaries to stop burying their heads in the sand while the demonic cult continued to sweep across the country.

"It is time they told us whether this is part of their ruling system since people cannot just be left to live in the dark by their own leaders," he told *Target*.

Messages

The CPK boss disclosed that he had two weeks ago received a letter signed "the devil", warning him and other clerics about their Christian mission "in a country that was just about to be taken over by the devil".

He said other church leaders had reported to him having received such messages which, he believed, were written by people also associated with the Freemasons.

The archbishop said it was sad that a society claiming to be operating under secrecy had been allowed to flourish in the country even after various complaints had been made against it.

"If they say they are people with similar business interests, then we are so many out here with the same interests and we have never been approached to join them," Archbishop Kuria said.

He said it was his belief that the society was up to no good and was frequented by marginal Christians who did not know whether they belonged to God or to the devil.

He said the country had half of its population currently uncertain whether or not to believe in what their

leaders said since nobody seemed to know what direction to follow.

"We have leaders both in political and church circles who are involved in very dubious activities and those being led are not sure of who to follow any more," he said.

The CPK head said that recent disasters in the country were also a result of indecisiveness by Christians unsure of where they belonged.

"Such things are bound to happen if people cannot decide whether they are serving their Creator or the devil just like was the case in Sodom and Gomorrah," he cautioned.

According to Archbishop Kuria, the recent reported incidents in educational institutions about strange actions said to be activities of devil worship clearly indicated how devout people could turn to Satan.

"If people are told not to worship God by their leaders, then they are left with no choice but to turn to the devil. It is the only alternative they have," he said.

He said that a survey done by church leaders across the country indicated that the practice (devil worshipping) was growing by the day. He lamented that stamping it out would be difficult once it got established.

Incidents

He said there were many incidents that had not been reported citing cases where some teachers were part and parcel of the practice and were secretly initiating their students and encouraging them to spread the demonic gospel. "Christians have been

warned in some quarters of dire consequences if they continued doing their missionary work. Some have been cowed while others have stood by their faith. But it is only important for us to know and stand by whom we are serving," the primate said.

He cautioned: "It (devil worship) is no longer a theory like we used to think a few years ago. It is here with us and we have to be careful".

"When this sort of worship is discovered in a school, then the board of governors, parents, teachers and students should sit together and find why and who is encouraging it," he said.

Unless this was done urgently, Archbishop Kuria said, the country would soon find itself being destroyed by the devil whose mission in the society was clearly that of destruction.

The CPK boss attributed the violence witnessed in schools recently to devil worship and wondered why education officials had not found it necessary to address the issue



Archbishop Kuria

from that angle.

On whether he believed that the Freemason Society was an arm of the devil, the archbishop retorted: "What do you think yourself? If they operate in the dark, then they cannot be up to any good."

He said he was aware of top leaders in the government who were regular visitors to the Freemasons' Hall along Nairobi's Nyerere Road and

wondered how people who went to church every Sunday, could get involved in things that were done in the dark.

"I am tempted to think that these are the same people who are creeping in our schools at night and inducing our children to take part in this demonic business," the archbishop said.

Asked whether any members of his church were also in Freemasonry, Archbishop Kuria said: "We have all sorts of people in the CPK including wolves in sheep's skins. It is only God who knows who is who".

Mr Long said that his society membership comprised people who were also members of different religious denominations.

"The archbishop is, however, entitled to his own feelings. I cannot stop him from thinking the way he wants about our society. It is his right, so just publish it that way," Mr Long said.

He said Freemasonry in Kenya was divided into 44 districts and at no time did

they meet for any sort of worship.

Mr Long said one required to pay Sh16,000 to enrol as a member while the annual subscription fee is Sh 3,000.

Prominent Kenyans, including church leaders, have been associated with the Freemasons Society. However, even those known to belong to it have denied any links with the society.

On May 7, 12 girls of Huruma Secondary School in Nairobi claimed to have been instructed by an unidentified force to destroy all the crucifixes in the school.

The girls went ahead and broke all the crucifixes in the Catholic-sponsored institution, thereby sparking off a debate as to whether the force was the devil or God.

They were suspended but re-admitted after weeks of controversy regarding who the owner of the alleged voice was. Earlier, a Nairobi School student was suspended after allegedly being found devil worshipping besides the school's swimming pool at night.



Law Society of Kenya chairman Willy Mutunga chairs with Ma Mary Anglenda during the luncheon.

Opposition a spent force - Shamala

By Celestine Onyango

Former Member of Parliament for Shinyalu Japheth Shamala has dismissed Kenya's opposition parties as spent forces, riddled with poor leadership, internal bickering, infighting and general confusion.

Speaking to *Target* barely a week after defecting from FORD-Asili to Kanu, the lawyer-diplomat turned politician and who was once FORD-Asili's shadow Attorney-General, claimed that Mr Kenneth Matiba was drafting a new party constitution behind members' backs, with the support of his "kitchen cabinet".

Mr Matiba is the FORD-A chairman and MP for Kilifi who only makes technical appearances in Parliament.

Mr Shamala said that many of Mr Matiba's decisions were individual, autocratic and insensitive to other members' feelings. He also accused his former party chairman of being too bossy to heed their calls for meetings with him.

The Shinyalu ex-MP said that nobody dared challenge the FORD-A chairman openly, including the party secretary general, Mr Martin Shikuku.

"We have held no meeting as FORD-Asili members to chart out our programmes in Parliament or outside. We kept on pleading for meetings but our pleas fell on deaf ears," he claimed.

Those who have been frustrated have been talking through the press and going

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National News



Man loses all to tribalists

Mr John Nyalandi Gabriel looks brokenhearted at the remains of his house-cum shop in which property worth Sh 250,000 was destroyed during the recent attack at Mtondia

Village in Kilifi District. Fear and panic have gripped the village after leaflets were circulated warning people from upcountry to leave the area or else they would be attacked.

Eight people died last month when local Girilamas set on the

Luos at night to force them to leave Mtondia. The Luos work in the quarries along the Coastal strip from Timbuni to Roka, near Malindi. Mr Emmanuel Maltha attributed the attack on his fellow Coast Kanu hawk who had earlier issued an ultimatum to those in-

involved in "crafty and shady land and plot grabbing". Mvita MP Shariff Nassir was later to blame the killings on "quarrels over beer and women". The leaflets in Kilifi warned upcountry teachers, civil servants and businessmen to leave the area. —Wanyama Masinde.

City Nyayo wards white elephants

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due to lack of funds.

The two said there were similar buildings in Nakuru and Embu, which Danny Construction Company abandoned when funds dried up.

The Nyayo Wards project, a brainchild of President Moi, was started during the second term of office of the president.

Designed to basically popularize President Moi, every district and sometimes even divisions were supposed to have a Nyayo ward attached to the existing hospital. Several massive fundraising campaigns were conducted for the structures.

There were silent cries of protest in the way the constructions were carried out by a single company throughout

the country without offering opportunities for other firms to compete in tendering.

Danny Construction Company, it was argued, was using the cheapest materials available and that the amount spent on a single project did not justify the cost.

Some critics went further and pointed a connection between the name of the construction firm and that of the head-of State, alleging that the company was previously little known and that it was unfair to award all the jobs of putting up Nyayo wards in the whole country to a single firm.

The two watchmen at Pumwani recalled that while the construction was going on, the president used to personally visit the site at least once a week or even more frequently to inspect the progress.

Tall grass characterise the 30-acre compound while the building is covered with dirt. Some of the window panes are broken and, electric wires hang on the walls.

In Kiambu, the Nyayo Ward at the district hospital has been abandoned by in-patients. The wing, located on the western end of the hospital, is supposed to cater for more than 60 patients but these days it hardly has 10 in patients.

Target found that lack of facilities at the Nyayo Ward had been the main reason why the facility was not being used. Some staff members cited lack of drugs and facilities such as lack of bedding as contributing to the under-utilisation of the ward.

Govt's double standards criticised

From page 1

They said it was surprising that the government had not found it necessary to encourage viable co-operative societies to buy some of the parastatals but instead, preferred to sell them to people, some of whom had contributed to the current financial problems in the country.

"We must avoid a situation where the rich get richer while the poor get poorer, by not allowing a few tycoons and sharks to buy off everything at throw-away prices," the press statement said.

The Rev Musyimi and Dr Wanjau said the government had failed to probe the Goldenberg Scandal and it was only saving its face by claiming that it was focussing its

attention on the negative effects of the SAPs.

They said that while sermons of peace, love and unity continued to be preached by government leaders, innocent citizens were being killed in different parts of the country while others were being dispossessed through violence orchestrated by some leaders.

"We fail to see the commitment to protect innocent citizens constantly living under the terror of eviction and death because of the on-going ethnic clashes," they said.

They regretted that sermons on political pluralism were being presented with contempt and cynicism.

The statement said that although Kanu did not want to revert the country into a sin-

gle party system, the government had used all its machinery to ensure that the opposition was weakened while the ruling party gained more strength.

The two clergymen also said they were concerned that elected Members of Parliament in the Opposition continued to live in fear of harassment as Kanu did its best to lure them into its camp.

The two church leaders said the government should desist from applying the law selectively since all Kenyans depended on the same for their protection while they engaged in diverse nation-building activities.

"While the Kanu government appears concerned when people do not get enough to

eat, they are certainly indifferent if the same citizens are marginalised and murdered because of tribal clashes," the NCCCK statement said.

"When we enacted our Constitution at independence, we embraced a new definition of home. Anywhere in Kenya is home for anyone who belongs to this country," the statement said and condemned what was happening in the clash areas as unconstitutional, impractical, inhumane and unacceptable.

The two church leaders questioned the allocation of land to "unknown" well-connected people in a manner that consigned those who once lived or owned that land to the category of refugees.

They said it was shameful for

the government to allow the people it was supposed to protect to suffer for the simple reason that they did not belong to some favoured tribes.

"It is time that we rehabilitated our politics and morality if we have to continue running our affairs smoothly," they said.

The Rev Musyimi and Dr Wanjau said the NCCCK fully supported constitutional changes but was first advocating for moral changes among Kenyans at all levels.

"We have to accept that our moral account is in the red and we must make all efforts to revitalise it before any other changes are achieved effectively," they said.

'Opposition spent force'

From page 2

to courts. I tried to talk to Mr Matiba to conform to the party's constitution and he defied my request," he said.

Mr Shamala defended his defection to Kanu as a decision he took after a long reflection, helped by colleagues and close friends.

"I could not defect to FORD-Kenya or to the Democratic Party of Kenya (DP). I had worked closely with guys in FORD-Kenya like James Orango, Raila Odunga, Dr Mukhisi Kituyi, and Paul Muite during the crusade for

Multi-party politics and they are the guys I know well," he said.

"Some of those chaps have yet to grow. They find intrigues as a hobby having to undermine one another, something I found common while working with them," he said.

Mr Shamala said this had continued and he was aware of what happened in the party. "I see a lot of infighting in this party," he said.

As for the DP, he said it was too tribal and could not suit him.

TARGET'S CHURCH DIARY

June 3 - CCEA meeting at the All Saints Cathedral.

June 9 - Trans World Radio (TWR) Pastors' Prayers meeting for radio Sunday in Eldoret.

June 10 - Board meeting of Bible Translation Literacy (BTL) at BTL Centre.

June 20-26 - NCCCK-FLEP Family Life Week.

June 21-25 - CCEA Religious Education Advisors (REA) & Religious Education Secretaries (RES) Religious Education (RES) Training Conference at Kanamal Conference Centre, Mombasa.

June 25 - Church of Nazareth Bible College graduation at Nazareth Church, Ngong Road.

June 25-July 2 - NCCCK-Women's Programme's visit to Coast and Seminar on Violence Against Women for Women from South Rift Region at Kanamal Conference Centre, Mombasa.

June 26 - People For Peace in Africa Gala Performance at

Holy Family Basilica, Nairobi.

July 4-8 - NCCCK-PPH Seminar for Church leaders & disabled people-Nandi Region at Kapsabet School for the Deaf.

July 11-18 - NCCCK General Assembly at Kanamal Conference Centre.

July 26 - Catholic National Charismatic Movement, Harambee at Holy Family Basilica Guest of Honour: Archbishop John Njenga.

August 1-5 - AACC Consultation of Democratization and development in Nairobi.

August 9-28 - CPK 150th Anniversary Walk: Mombasa - Nairobi & Mombasa - Nairobi.

August 15-19 - NCCCK-PPH Management Seminar for Kanu/Disabled Group in Nairobi.

August 15-22 - CREA Writers Workshop at Kanamal Conference Centre.



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2nd HALF OF 1994 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Seminar Title
July 4-8, 1994	The role of secretaries in management
July 18-22, 1994	Sales & marketing management
August 8-12, 1994	Auditing for internal auditors
August 22-26, 1994	Office management
September 12-19, 1994	Stock control and stores management
September 27-28, 1994	Winning back your market
October 3-7, 1994	Effective selling and salesmanship
November 7-11, 1994	Effective supervision
November 21-25, 1994	Public relations and secretarial duties
December 5-9, 1994	Profitable customer relations

SEMINARS VENUE: All seminars will be conducted in Nairobi but in-house seminars will be held where the client deems it appropriate. Tuition material including stationery, reading material, files, group photographs, certificate of participation, refreshment and lunch will be provided.

For any further information, please contact the Training Manager.

Aids victims need legal protection

The law enforcement agents in this country should urgently consider protecting the rights of people with the HIV virus.

This and similar sentiments were expressed by legal experts and other professionals working in the field of Aids during the eleventh International Candle Light Memorial and Mobilization ceremonies to honour the memory of those "who have died of the dreaded disease".

During the climax of the celebrations held at the Holy Family Basilica, Nairobi on May 22, Mr Joe Muriuki, the Director of the Kenya Aids Society (KAS) said that the 1992 candlelight ceremony was celebrated in more than 2,000 cities in 44 countries

By Jeff Mbure

making it the biggest such function in the world.

Mr Muriuki, himself a HIV-infected person, lamented that Aids sufferers continued to face several forms of discrimination.

Some of the discrimination which Aids sufferers faced included restrictions on international travel, eviction from residences, stigmatisation by community, loss of jobs, refusal for insurance cover as well as refusal for training opportunities.

Lady Justice Joyce Oluoch, spoke on the "Special Legal Implications of Aids Sufferers Among Women and Children". She said that women

and children needed special attention as far as HIV was concerned. She cited special conditions which made women more vulnerable to Aids than men. These include conjugal rights, under which a wife was compelled by law to have sex with the husband.

Justice Oluoch said that because of women's economic dependence on men, the problem of polygamy, and of wife inheritance, females were more at risk of Aids than men.

Another aspect of Aids affecting women and children was the question of confidentiality. While the doctors were under oath not to disclose information about HIV patients to third parties, this was not the reality with the disease.

TARGET

'The truth shall set you free'

Is Kenya reverting to authoritarianism?

Recent political developments in Kenya are disturbing to say the least. The Kanu government seems determined to stifle the democratisation process set in motion following the repeal of section 2 (a) of the constitution nearly three years ago.

The government, through its administrative machinery, is increasingly harassing the opposition. Where the threat and harassment are not physical, the stick and carrot approach is being used to wipe out the opposition at elected leadership level.

President Moi is on record as having said that he was determined to strengthen Kanu and not to kill the Opposition. That is a commendable exercise of any political leader when the playing field is level.

In the Kenyan situation, that field is far from level and that is why we join other equally concerned citizens in voicing our suspicion that a bigger agenda against the opposition and therefore democracy in the country, is in the offing.

It must have, by now, become clear to Kenyans that if one political party holds power for too long it becomes inhospitable to new ideas. It rewards and promotes its own kind. It politicises parts of national life that were not politicised before. Above all, it becomes intolerant to centres of dissent and circumvents them. Indeed, it comes to see the normal rules of private conduct as applying to everyone except its own members.

This is what the Kanu government has been doing and is doing. Kenya's political atmosphere is increasingly suffocating, all because of the unbridled power of a party that has been in power for more than 30 years.

Two weeks ago, FORD-Kenya leaders and sympathisers in Nyanza and Western Kenya were being forced out of meetings because they allegedly did not have licences. At the same time, the Democratic Party of Kenya leaders were being refused entry into the now segregated camp of Maala where thousands of people have lived in appalling conditions since their forced eviction from Buoosupukia more than six months ago.

There is no doubt that running a government is a difficult business. But it can be made easier through free participation of all parties concerned. It can also be made easier through the recognition of the power of the electorate. This latter fact is something the Kanu leadership seems to take for granted.

Instead, Kanu is wooing and buying out elected opposition leader in strategic areas. The assumption being that once a leader has sold out to Kanu those who voted him in would automatically follow him.

Kanu leaders have been especially vocal in preaching to the opposition that they made a five-year mistake by rejecting Kanu. These leaders, by their consistent guilt-engineering through the state-controlled media, want to tell the opposition that before the five years are over. And the play has worked well in some constituencies of Western Province and Kilifi.

Not that all is well in the opposition camp. Some observers have gone a step further and blamed the opposition for killing itself. The inability of the leadership of major opposition political parties to rise above petty individualism, demagoguery, politics of ethnic manipulation and patronage has been seized by the Kanu leadership with much success in wiping out sympathy for the opposition.

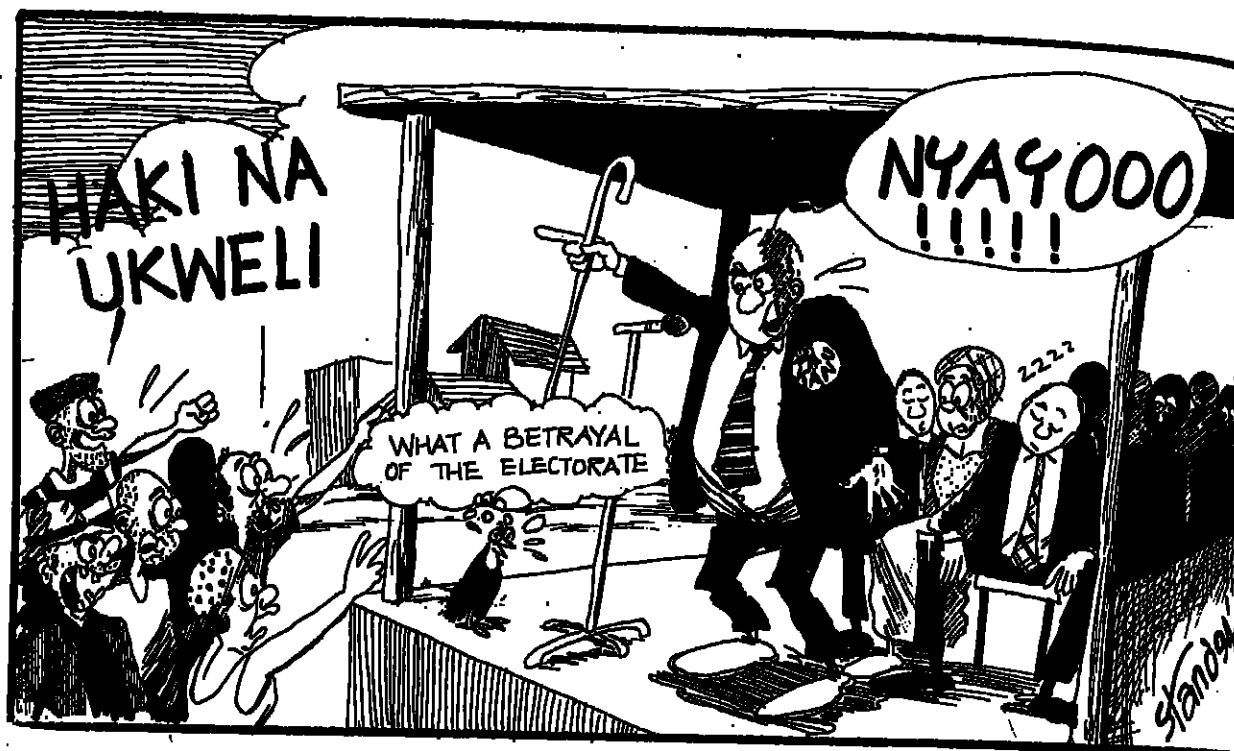
Another disadvantage the opposition has in plenty is its poverty of thought as reflected in its leadership agenda that simply spells out personal ambition.

This, in a way, explains the recent defections from the opposition to Kanu. Those who sought to replace Kanu without a well worked out agenda are frustrated. The very thought of not having ideological Kanu overwhelms all reason, hence the temptation to go back to Mama and Baba Kanu.

They forget that Kenyans achieved a lot in December 1992 by expressing a historic demand for political liberalisation. Going back to Kanu is retrogressive and a betrayal of the majority who said NO to the ruling party two years ago.

The need for an opposition that is equipped to command voters' confidence is very great especially now that some of those given the mandate to speak out on the need for genuine change in the country have grown cold feet.

On its part, Kanu should realise that the time that it used to violate Kenyans' basic human rights at will are long gone unless its agenda is to create a civil war situation like is happening not very far from our borders. It should curtail its authoritarianism by making the playing field level for everybody to sell their ideas in the market place.



MAILBOX

It's time Njonjo came back

The Editor,
Target,
P.O. Box 45009
Nairobi.

There is no doubt that Mr Charles Mugene Njonjo still commands much respect both locally and internationally for his no-nonsense attitude, straight forwardness, discipline, honesty, good governance, anti-corruption, courage, decisiveness, competence, accountability and transparency.

He is a man of principles, thus his Yes is Yes, while his No is No. He is the only man who is capable of reviving the economy of this country within a very short period if not immediately.

Yes, this is the only man who can make the price of unga, matatu fares and school fees go down by more than half and make the shilling strong. He is the man who can make drugs available at Kenyatta National Hospital at affordable costs.

Mr Njonjo is the man who will say: "I want no more tribal clashes" and that will be final. That is the kind of a leader Kenyans are looking for. It is because of this that the Gikuyu, Embu and Meru Association, GEMA which Mr Njonjo destroyed in 1980, the IPK, the opposition leaders and other groups, including some Kanu hawks, are working round the clock to make sure that Mr Njonjo makes a political come-back.

So far Mr Njonjo has not agreed to this request and will have to accept it for three reasons. Firstly, it is Kenyans who made him what he is today by contributing for his university education abroad through harambee spirit.

Secondly, he earns a lot of respect both locally and internationally because of the support and co-operation Kenyans gave him when he was Attorney-General.

Thirdly, he owes Kenyans an apology for introducing section 2A in the Constitution making Kenya a one-party state. The only way to apologise is to accept to make a political come-back and run for the 1997 election and make sure he wins.

Can Don Wamagata, Kisumu

Kipsigis reject Kanu

Many people in Bomet are very happy with the Target for informing the public about the way Kanu has frustrated many people. I live in a most undeveloped part of the Kipsigis. Women and men have worked hard to educate their children although the place is dry. There are no roads.

The Kipsigis love everybody and women in particular are willing to live with everyone. They are hurt to hear of the killing of other tribes.

In Chepalungu there are hardly any government appointments senior officers despite the fact that the place has many qualified and experienced people in government. Attempts to see the president have been blocked by cousins Kipkalia Kones and Jonathan Ng'eno who were selected not elected to parliament.

Kipsigis women have decided to reveal the truth. We are ready to vote for another party any time because our children have been retired or sacked in the civil service.

The people who always surround the president are unpopular, corrupt and liars. They always tell the president lies.

Mr Kones has made everyone in the Kipsigis area to hate the Kanu government. He is always boasting that he is the advisor of the president.

How can cousins of the same clan be appointed cabinet ministers? Isn't this a way of telling the Kipsigis that they are fools?

Enough is enough. We request Mr Kijana Wamaliwa to open an office in Bomet, Nandai and Sigor.

We want a government that listens to everybody. We are tired of Koneses and Ng'enos who always threaten people. We do not want people who are separating us from other tribes.

Mr Kones does not want anybody in Chepalungu con-

stituency to be promoted. How long will our children suffer under Kanu? He has frustrated our MP so much that he is unable to talk on behalf of his people.

Kipsigis women are tired of Kanu. We want our MP, John Koech, to defect immediately and join any party and we shall vote for him. We feel very bad as Christians to see our children being frustrated by people who do not value human life.

Kipsigis people have many clans. We do not want MPs who only think of their brothers and clans. The president should find out why Chepalungu has no Permanent Secretary PC, managing director and why our people are being frustrated so much and yet we were leading in votes of 1992 with 50,000 compared to 42,000 in Bomet.

We are sailing in the same boat with other tribes. Kipsigis are just doormats as Mr Wamaliwa said. We want all the political parties to open offices anywhere in Bomet and Kericho.

The Kipsigis is the hated tribe among the Kalenjin because it has intelligent and hardworking sons and daughters. Because of this we do not want to be included in that name "Kalenjin". We are Kipsigis from Kericho and Bomet.

Mary Kirui (Mrs), Nandai

The Editor invites brief and topical letters as they stand a better chance of being published. They should carry the writer's name, address and signature as a sign of good faith. The writer's wish that his/her name not be published will be honoured.

A prayer to the infinite

I look from the heart of my consciousness At the mystery of my person And at the wide awesome world about me Which and whose intense and extent defeat my mind

I contemplate the immensity The ultimate indestructibility The apparently inexorable forward march of the universe I observe the Manyas, the Tudors

The rumba and reggae The skullcap and the sun bonnet

The various trends that keep varying in variant fields I just don't see the myriad of creeds

The extent of philosophies and idiosyncrasies But too the malleability, The versatility of the psyche and the will At which entire magnificent sight

I cry a prayer in my heart: At times of despair, Oh infinitely Preserve my courage in the knowledge of illumination.

Ambrose Ngũgĩ, Nairobi

Rid Kenyans of Political turncoats

Kenyans in some opposition areas feel betrayed. All of a sudden the politicians they voted to represent them in parliament have, after much cash persuasion and political cajoling by the corrupt Kanu leadership, realised that they are in the cold and that as long as they are in the opposition their areas will not be developed.

In Kakamega district, it is only Mr Martin Shikuku who is still representing people's wishes. All the others have returned to Baba and Mama Kanu. The electorate that voted for change, the people who were tired of the stuffy Kanu leadership, are now represented.

I feel that the only cure for these defections and betrayal of the Kenyan voter is another general election.

Wanyama Wajulu, Nairobi

National News

NGOs agree to pool resources

By Wanyama Masinde

Four organisations operating in the clashes-torn areas have agreed to pool their resources for quick resettlement and rehabilitation of victims of tribal violence.

The Doctors Without Frontiers (MSF), International Child Care Trust, National Council of Churches of Kenya and United Nations Development Programme will co-operate to serve and enable the victims to return to their farms.

The MSF gives medical assistance, ICT relief, food and medicine while the NCCCK has been and will continue giving relief food and farming implements.

The UNDP has been channeling funds to some NGOs for rehabilitation and resettlement of the victims.

Other NGOs active in the area include the Kenya Red Cross and OXFAM. The districts covered are Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Kisumu. Nandi, Molo Nyamira and Kisii might suffer isolation due to fear of insecurity by the NGOs.

The main reason for pooling resources is to avoid duplication of duties and services to the victims.

Recently, a series of meetings took place in Bungoma, Trans Nzoia and Uasin Gishu. Attending the meetings were Frank Mollen (Dutch Embassy), Marlette Custers (DIA), Joseph Oriato (NCCCK), Bill Lorenz (UNDP) and Joe Allinson.

The representatives settled on co-operation as a means to shake off the suspicion and on the ground antagonism that has been going on due to some NGOs feeling that they were superior to others and their claims of having the ear and eye of the local administration.

In the past, the poor relationship and lack of communication made the public as well as the victims, to view the NGOs as competitors in the same exercise.

All set for PCEA music festival

The national Presbyterian Church of East Africa Church School Children's Annual Festival of Drama and Music begins this month.

The festival offers memory verse, sacred song, set piece, solo verse and drama. The solo verse is an added item this year where teachers are given a free hand to compose an appealing verse with a moral teaching of their choice.

The aim of the festival is not to compete for honours but to bring together young children in a forum that would enhance proper understanding



Commonwealth celebrates

Mr Phillip Dido, education officer at the Kenya High Commission, shows British school children wall posters of Kenya during the recent Commonwealth Day celebrations at the Commonwealth

Institute in London. The special day was given a rousing start with flags and balloons in the grounds of the institute. Commonwealth High Commission representatives answered children's questions and demonstrated aspects of their country's lifestyle, when their stands were visited in the Institute's galleries.

The official theme for this year's Commonwealth Day was Sport to coincide with the Commonwealth Games in Canada. The Black and white costumes of Klee Wyck, the 1.8 metre Orcha whale, the official mascot of the XV Commonwealth Games, was also featured.

Maathai explains defections

The adoration of wealth and political power is behind the current wave of political defections, says the world acclaimed environmentalist, Prof Wangari Maathai.

Prof Maathai said in a press statement that this adoration of materialism and power "has nurtured irresponsible governance characterised by authoritarianism, non-accountability, corruption and naked opportunism."

Commenting on the defections, the head of the Green Belt Movement said: "It is this culture of opportunism which is now being demonstrated by leaders in both the opposition and the ruling party. The only reason why many Kenyans are angry and

infuriated with the defecting opposition leaders is that by so doing those leaders will not deliver them from the excesses of the Kanu government."

She said that in recent Kenyan history, whenever a leader emerged from a general state of helplessness the wanyanhi looked up to him to deliver them. They idolised him, promoted sycophantism and elevated him to a super human level from where he could do no wrong.

Prof Maathai regretted that the wanyanhi surrendered their political and economic power and national resources such as

public land, forests and the treasury to such idols and perceived messiahs.

She called on Kenyans to reclaim their heritage — "our land, our God, our values, ourselves" and counselled: "Let us not put our faith in any individual leader. Rather, let us trust in God and collectively forge ahead to create and sustain a strong civil society."

Such a society would have to build a political and economic system which cultivated and rewarded values such as self-control, honesty and hard work, Prof Maathai said.

She called on Kenyans to sustain hope in the face of the on going political defections and by-elections.

Raila for Opposition co-operation

By Mwenda Kubal

Ford-Kenya Deputy Director of elections, Mr Raila Odinga says he does not support the idea of forming a single united Opposition. Instead, he told Target in an interview that efforts should be made to strengthen the existing opposition parties with the aim of forming a coalition government.

However, he said that there was nothing wrong with Opposition parties co-operating and working together in the advocacy of their common Democratic ideals. It was in this spirit that Opposition MPs had agreed to form an opposition alliance to face the Kanu go-

Reactions to the recent announcement by 25 Opposition leaders regarding the proposed United Democratic Alliance, Mr Odinga said: "We have not discussed the idea among the various opposition parties but it is an initiative among the Opposition MPs."

He said that the Opposition parties should identify ways of finding solutions to problems and rise up to speak with one voice against the injustices that Kenyans had been subjected to over the years.

On the recent wave of harassment of the Opposition by the Kanu government, Mr Odinga said: "We are very unhappy about the harassment such as the cancellation of rallies by Opposition leaders and arbitrary arrests."

He said the Opposition parties would not be cowed by such acts of intimidation. They would fight for their democratic rights tirelessly, he said and urged Kenyans to give massive support to the Opposition to enable the

parties realise the long-cherished democratic ideals.

Speaking on the need for extensive constitutional amendment, Mr Odinga said this was necessary to give the Opposition a level playing ground with the Kanu government and enhance the achievement of democratic rights. "We will demand the constitutional amendment even if it means boycotting the 1997 General Elections to force the Kanu government to accept the establishment of a meaningful Democracy and the rule of Law," he further said.

Mr Odinga said that the current intimidation on the Opposition by the government was caused by panic within the ruling party "which is scared of the existence of a strong Opposition."

He felt that Kanu's aim was to buy as many Opposition MPs as possible to command a two thirds majority in parliament so that it can pass any business in the House with ease.

He suspected that the Kanu government might as well be harbouring a hidden agenda to push for major constitutional changes in its favour and for those in power.

But Mr Odinga said "we will fight to achieve our goals."

He said the Opposition existed due to bad management of the economy and misrule of the country.

"The Opposition serves a great purpose and we are gaining increasing support. Kenyans are disenchanted with the social injustices in the country, and they will always speak out against those in power," Mr Odinga said.

Culture

TARGET

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Culture

Africa Round-up



Rev. Chipenda.

Professor to probe slaughter

As hundreds of thousands of Rwandese continue fleeing the killing fields in their country, a Cote d'Ivoire law professor, Rene Degni-Segui, has been appointed to investigate the mass slaughter taking place in that tiny Central African country.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission appointed the Ivorian last week. More than 500,000 people have died since April 6 when a plane carrying President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundian counterpart was downed as it was about to land at Kigali Airport.

The death of the two presidents of the majority Hutu tribe was the cause of the holocaust the world is witnessing today in Rwanda.

The fighting pits the government forces and the minority Tutsi-led rebel guerrillas of the Rwanda Patriotic Front. Roads leading out of Kigali are crowded with refugees, soldiers and militiamen as the RPF rebels close in on the capital. The RPF has already captured large chunks of land in the north and east of the country and are moving to the centre.

In the meantime, thousands of corpses continue being swept into Lake Victoria on the Ugandan side, posing a serious health threat not only to Ugandans but also to Kenyans and Tanzanians.

Rwanda bleeding to death

Rwanda continues to bleed to death as Africa and the rest of the world look undecided on the exact line of action to take.

This situation has prompted the All Africa Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation to join forces "in bringing succor to the Rwandese refugees in Tanzania, Burundi and Zaire."

The AACC secretary general, the Rev Jose Bolo Chipenda has appealed to people of goodwill to join the worthy exercise of stopping the bleeding in Rwanda where more than 500,000 people have died since the downing of the plane carrying the President Juvenal Habyarimana two months ago. The tribal killings involve the Hutu and Tutsi tribesmen.

The Rev Chipenda told a news conference in Nairobi: "Rwanda is bleeding. Africa cannot stand still and watch. We must act now. It is in time like this that true friends are needed."

For a start, the AACC and WCC, among other church organisations, have formed the Church of Rwanda Emergency Team (CRET) of five people to attend to this worst of all bad situations to have ever happened in Africa.

The CRET personnel have been to Ngara, now the world's largest refugee hosting more than 250,000 Rwandese. Ngara is in Tanzania near the common border between the two countries.

The combatants are the government forces and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front.

Three of CRET members, who accompanied the Rev Chipenda, told of the horror and appalling conditions at the refugee camp.

The AACC boss said CRET's immediate aim was to raise 2 million US dollars for Rwanda.

"It is well-known that 80 per cent of the population in Rwanda is Christian. Though Roman Catholics are in the majority, together with Protestants, they have been



Home, very far away from home... A refugee family outside their makeshift shelter in Ngara, Tanzania.

working for peace. Their work should not be stopped. Let us give them all the support they need."

"We have now written to Dr Boutros Ghali the UN Secretary General asking him to do all in his power to stop the horror and bloodshed in Rwanda," the Rev Chipenda said and appealed to the countries neighbouring Rwanda to act "because they must realise



Onwards to the unknown... Rwandese refugees with the little they could carry run for dear life. —pictures by APS.

that what is happening in Rwanda is not far away from them."

"It is time to say enough is enough. It is time to talk. It is time to pray, each in our own ways. The alternatives are too dreadful to contemplate. The war could easily spill over to other African countries and the fire will burn more destructively," he said.

He asked Christians everywhere to pray for Rwanda and Burundi, especially during this time of Pentecost. "May the spirit of Pentecost teach us to care for all and not just for some and take us closer to brothers and sisters in Rwanda," he prayed.

In his letter to the UN Secretary General, the Rev Chipenda said: "The eyes of Africans today are filled with tears. On the one hand we weep with joy at the wonderful display of democracy and peace in South Africa after 350 years of suffering and oppression."

"But on the other hand, we are overwhelmed with sadness and anguish at the massive and senseless violence in Rwanda where we believe suffering on a magnitude the world has seldom seen, is taking place in a situation where African countries and the international community appear both uncaring and impotent."

"Our brothers and sisters in Rwanda are crying out for help while international fora debate political niceties and anguish over another Somalia. For the sake of our God-

given humanity, we plead for peace and a unanimous condemnation of this appalling carnage."

The national chairman of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr J. K. Yabs said the new foreign exchange relaxation measures would go a long way to open up the economy.

Dr Yabs said that the removal of restrictive tariffs and non-tariff barriers as well as the liberalisation of price controls would usher in a new economic era in the country.

He called on the government to pursue its commitment in the privatisation process of various public corporations.

Dr Yabs said the increase of the bracket of allowable money one could take out of the country from Sh 100,000 to Sh 280,000 without any restrictions or declaration would greatly ease travelling by Kenyan businessmen.

The new measures would also result in the importation of a wider variety of goods from other countries.

On the chamber politics, Dr Yabs said that with the new office bearers, the organisation was stabilising and would strategise its operations to take full advantage of the new positive business environment.

The Minister for Finance, Mr. Mwasia Mwangi, announced the new foreign exchange after the top organs of KCCI expressed their commitment to the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) during last week's meeting.

He said that a platform for serious talks must be provided, while allowing relief organisations to move in areas controlled by the Rwandan government and the Rwanda Patriotic Front.

Upon his return to Nyasaland at the beginning of 1960s, Banda embarked on the struggle to set his people free.

For 30 years, Malawians were treated to one of the harshest regimes on the African Continent. Their country became a typical case study of a police state. Through the manipulation of the constitution, the use of the administrative machinery, particularly the secret police, the people were kept under such tight control that even a wife could not trust her husband. Indiscriminate torture, political murders, detention without trial and other forms

of harassment became the order of the day.

While Banda's exit is cause for rejoicing, it also poses mounting challenges which Muluzi must contend with if his regime is going to do better than that of Dr Banda.

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A section of Gatwika slum in Nairobi: Converting a slum like this into a well-landscaped estate is a major task.

Greening Kenya's towns through community work

By Alex Diang'a

The looming urban crisis, resulting from stretching of urban infrastructure, has at last moved development planners into thinking approaches that involve communities in matters of environmental planning.

About one-third of the urban population in developing countries live in urban slums and shanty towns in a precarious and dismal environment. These people are making it difficult for civic authorities to cope with their demands. The drift to urban areas in search of jobs has generated service related problems, including refuse collection, inadequate water, fuel and housing.

In Kenya, this trend has led to the mushrooming of slums in all major towns. The situation is likely to worsen because Kenya's urban population as a percentage of the estimated total of 24 million people is set to grow to 34 per cent by the year 2000, putting pressure on all aspects of urban infrastructure.

To demonstrate the manner in which development planners are worried by this trend, the Ministry of Local Government in conjunction with the Agricultural University of Wageningen in the Netherlands carried out an environmental planning study for Kilifi, Homa Bay and Busia between 1988 and 1989. The study led to the Environment and Urban Development Planning Project or "Green Towns Project," which combines urban growth with soil and water conservation, horticultural and forestry programmes.

The project, funded by the government of The Netherlands, seeks to integrate environmental issues in the five-year project by training trainers and implementing model projects through government officials, councillors and representatives of the public in these small towns.

The training programme has representation from government ministries, public universities, government training institutes and the NGO sector. "Our driving message is that the success and sustainability of the ecological project is hinged upon community participation," says Ingrid Duohart, the Green Towns Project manager.

According to the Busia Town Clerk, the project has been firm on developing inter-linkages between volunteer groups and the council. "Our project has been successful because we have included residents and town officials," says Mr Jack Mukhongo, clerk of the western Kenya border town.

The Busia Green Town Volunteer Group (BGTVG) has pioneered the "Nyayo Green Garden" where visiting dignitaries have been planting trees. Individual plot owners are also encouraged to plant trees in their plots. "We are making good progress and are confident that even if donors stopped funding us, we would work with the community to ensure that the operations continue," Mukhongo says.

BOTVG was also behind the greening of the Busia-Kisumu road-side in collaboration with the Busia Town Council. Concerned with the large numbers of cross-border traders, the Busia Initiative has included possible rehabilitation and construction of toilet blocks.

Concern

In Homa Bay, the Town Clerk, Mr J.A. Odior, says "substantial progress is being made towards a greener and cleaner Homa Bay." Odior therefore urges the people to

dispose of their waste in specific spots for easy collection.

In Kericho, the Permanent Secretary for Lands and Physical Planning, Mr Joseph Sang, while opening one of the Green Town Project training workshops said the project could not have come at a more opportune time, given the global concern for the environment.

"The urban sector is of crucial importance in this initiative," Sang said plans were underway to set up an Environmental Monitoring Unit (EMU) as a step towards environmental protection.

The goal is to encourage sustainable development by stemming degradation and curbing poverty. The project seeks to achieve a healthy and attractive living environment, providing its inhabitants with basic needs such as water, food, energy and shelter," says Duohart.

Workshop participants are expected to take over and sustain the project as trainer-mentors after the Dutch team hands over the project to the Kenya government.

The project's people-centred approach fits well with government policy, as contained in the current Development Plan, which stresses public involvement in the development process.

The Green Towns Project hopes to create public awareness and responsibility on environmental issues. Once successful, the project, it is hoped, will be extended to neighbouring countries such as Tanzania and Uganda, says Duohart.

The challenge ahead will be to sustain good trainers, capable of using whatever resources available to spread the project's message across all local authorities, she adds.

—An IRIS Feature

TEENAGER TELLS OF HIS ESCAPE FROM RWANDA'S KILLING FIELDS

By a Correspondent

Augustine Munyeshaka looks about 10 but says he is 17. He thought he was dying of hunger when he was found wandering alone about three kms from what is now the world's largest refugee camp near Ngara, in northwest Tanzania.

Augustine is one of 250,000 traumatised Rwandan refugees fleeing the violence of their tiny Central African republic across the Kagera River now filled with bloated bodies to the relative safety of neighbouring Tanzania.

Sitting expressionless in the home of Pastor Ananias, where he had been taken by the minister's son for shelter and food, he told his pathetic story to the Churches Rwanda Emergency Team (CRET) which was in Ngara to assess refugee needs.

The team was sent by the All Africa Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches to Tanzania, Burundi and Zaire where the greatest concentration of refugees is found.

Augustine, clearly traumatised by his experience, described leaving Rwanda with his father, mother and two sisters on April 28 from his home at Kamugurura in Ruyumba province to "run away" from the killings.

"We were going to cross into Tanzania because we feared the soldiers of the Rwanda Patriotic Front would kill us. They were about 30 km away," he said.

The RPF, a mainly Tutsi rebel group and the Rwandan government's army and militia, along with uncontrolled roving bands of armed bandits have been fighting since Rwanda's President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane was shot down two months ago. More than 500,000 people have died in genocidal massacres, while some 2 million Rwandese are refugees or internally displaced in the of most violent ethnic fighting in

the world.

"All life has stopped since we left Rwanda and there is no hope, just helplessness," the priest said. "There is no shelter here (in Tanzania) when it rains and it is very cold at night. Last night lions from the nearby game reserve came over... We are afraid that three people and a sheep have been eaten by lions."

African history.

"When we got to the border, our group was split in two by an armed group who sent one group back and another across the river. They were shooting at the other group and I think they were all killed," Augustine told the CRET team members.

Among those killed were Augustine's father, mother and sisters. The boy, survived by eating food given to him by sympathetic adults and then moving on with other orphans until finally he was taken in by Pastor Ananias.

He is bewildered, frightened and emotionally battered. "I am afraid of my country, I am afraid of leaders who will lead Rwanda. There is no good going back to Rwanda. I will stay here in Tanzania."



Refugees at Benaco camp fetch water from a pond which is their only source of water.

Augustine's story told to the four-person team is one of thousands. The team members saw bodies floating down the river between Tanzania and Rwanda at the rate of one every minute, "bloated, discoloured and obviously in the water for some time."

A parish priest, Fr Uwiragiye Samuel, told of his escape by motorcycle from Kibungu province through explosions and shooting. "I have heard stories of unscrupulous men taking innocent people across the river by canoe and then dumping them in the river, despite the fact that they were paid for the crossing. Most of the killings are being done by civilians," he said.

The church team, all experienced in refugee work, said it was the worst situation they had ever seen.

The bodies cannot be identified, nor removed from the river, causing pollution and danger of epidemics for residents downstream. Most will never be known, including Augustine's family.

"All life has stopped since we left Rwanda and there is no hope, just helplessness," the priest said. "There is no shelter here (in Tanzania) when it rains and it is very cold at night. Last night lions from the nearby game reserve came over, so we did not sleep all night. We are afraid that three persons and a sheep have been eaten by lions."

The situation inside Rwanda is one of confusion and chaos. The United Nations force attempts to guard five hotels housing unknown thousands of terrified civilians. Evacuations have been prevented by angry mobs. A Canadian military aircraft attempting to fly in medical supplies was shot at and had suspended flights by the time the CRET team was around.

UN agencies, huddled in a Nairobi hotel, are having difficulty agreeing on a relief programme. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and two medical agencies are trying to assist within Rwanda where no effective government exists.

An AACC staff person attending the UN briefing sessions had high praise for the ICRC but said "the UN is morally bankrupt and incapable of action." He said the NGOs were planning independent action rather than waiting for UN co-ordination.

Neighbouring Burundi, with the same Hutu-Tutsi ethnic mix, grows

continually more especially in the northern part to the Rwanda border.

Medicines and medical supplies are described as a precious commodity that is genocidal. The refugees often cannot help the massacres at hospitals and other common.

Children are being killed. People in Kigali are fleeing from their homes for little water which has been contaminated by corpses and there is almost no food.

Meanwhile in a poor country reeling from the impact of three years of drought and shortages — refugees on a hillside while the rain falls.

Approximately 100,000 people who have crossed the border into the country are shown. The border has been closed since May 1994. It is unclear by whom.

People living in the Ngara Bridge into Ngara camp

designated by Tanzania as Benaco have travelled as many as 300 km, mainly on foot.

The churches and NGOs are moving quickly to meet the immediate and longer term needs. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has an office established in the headquarters of the Anglican diocese of Kagera. The large refugee camp is located about 30 km from the diocesan office at Ngara.

There is a small lake near the camp but it will soon be inadequate for the refugees who are sub-divided into 11 smaller camps according to their original communes in Rwanda. Wood supplies are limited and the potential for disease enormous.

The camps are under UNHCR direction with the Tanzania Red Cross acting as camp managers. The Tanzania Christian Relief Services (TCRS) of the Church of the Province of Tanzania (Anglican) is constructing temporary meeting places, storage sites and arranging transportation and logistical management.

The CRET members visited the camps three times, consulted exten-

sively with Bishop Edwin Nyanumbi of Kagera diocese, the Christian Council of Tanzania relief officers and has made a number of preliminary proposals to AACC and WCC emergency services.

These include:

- TCRS logistics of US\$1million;
- The crisis must be considered as Rwanda-Burundi emergency due to instability in Burundi which could also trigger an exodus from that country;
- Transportation and communication requirements are urgent — at least 15-20 trucks required for transport.
- The churches operation must be fully ecumenical;
- Food requirements at the present refugee population will be 5,000 tons-a-month supplied by the World Food Programme;
- Other NGOs will be responsible for water, health, sanitation and community services;
- Time is urgent because, while the camp deaths are low at present (five per day), any delay in assistance could create a death toll of

Children are being born and killed. People in Kigali cannot venture from their homes, there is little water which has not been contaminated by corpses.

some 500 per day; TCRS is the oldest relief agency in Tanzania and has the best logistics capacity and will work with the Tanzania Red Cross. The TCRS has experienced local staff which could work more effectively than the expatriate-dominated UNHCR. While the CRET team is now in Burundi and its assessment is only preliminary, it is expected that at least US\$ 50 million will be needed for the ecumenical operation.

It has recommended an immediate transfer of funds to the Diocese of Kagera from WCC emergency desk. A key recommendation of the CRET team for the ecumenical programme is the establishment of community services to help the refugees themselves deal with the social and psychological impact of their ordeal.

"We think these services are best provided by the refugees themselves where they can discuss and deal with such matters as burials, schools, church services and counselling in an effort to introduce some normality to their lives," the CRET team told AACC and WCC staff just before leaving for Burundi.

The churches should play a central role in initiating and stimulating community meetings through Rwandan pastors and priests who are among the refugees.

The CRET team members are: Tim Cole of Christian Aid, Henk van Apeldoorn of Dutch Interchurch Aid, Andrew Kishindo of AACC Refugee and Emergency Services and Kaiti Manibe, WCC consultant.

How a spanner handler joined millionaires' club

Mr Simon Kuria Kanyingi is indeed a good friend of mine.

If you do not know him, Simon is that powerful former Director of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Unit, who by 1988 was already one of the closest confidantes of President Daniel arap Moi.

Towards the end of 1991, Mr Kanyingi's pay slip from the Ministry of Transport and Communications was reading something below Sh 6,000.

As a good friend of mine, I could have comfortably afforded to pay the director that amount of money and still survive until month-end without necessarily having to visit the cashier for some advance!

The Kanyingi I met for the first time at a Ruka restaurant in Kiambu in late 1987 was a totally different person from the Kanyingi many of you know today.

In the past one year, Mr Kanyingi appears naked in the press whenever his picture is published minus the bundles of currency notes that have become so much part of him.

The kind of money Mr Kanyingi waffles around with is one that makes me feel like a cheap labourer, who would rather keep his distance from men like him. In his own words, Mr Kanyingi has made it so fast because sometimes in the mid '70s a man called Daniel arap Moi happened to be travelling to Nakuru in a Mercedes Benz that was not fit enough to beat the then rough road between Naivasha and Gilgil townships.

At Gilgil, the Benz became so much of a nuisance that it refused to obey its master, who was then the country's Vice-President.

From the blues appeared my friend Simon and within minutes, his mechanical hands were already working on the Benz. A short while later it was cruising to Nakuru as if it had just left the DT Double showroom!

Mr Kanyingi and the owner of that Benz never forgot each other. Some years later the owner of that car became the Head of State and how could he forget that genius of a mechanic?

The mechanic is no longer in his overall. He is a multi-millionaire who goes by the name I have just told you.

Enter the '90s and Mr Kanyingi is aptly described as a man reborn, one who has undergone a complete metamorphosis! Him and State House are so close that it is the nearest place he would spend the night if, by he, any bad luck, was unable to travel to his native Limuru home.

Think of the bundles you have seen that man holding in hermbes, chance a look at the automatic automobiles he spins around with and like me, you will be tempted to wish you became a mechanic, and one in a government that really honours the men of the spanner.

ODD ONE OUT



By James Katululu

We all know or have heard of a man called Kenneth Matiba. He is the chairman of a party called FORD-Asili, an old boy of the prestigious Alliance High School and Makerere University, among other equally prestigious institutions he passed through before September 1988.

Ken Matiba and EBS

You do not need to change another gear to know that Ken and President Moi are bitter enemies. You can comfortably say the two men hate each other *kabisa*.

But just a minute. Mr Matiba decided two weeks ago that he did not need a medal called the Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) awarded to him by his grand enemy in 1986. Then, Mr Matiba was the Minister for Transport and Communications and the Kiambu Kanu sub-branch chairman.

Like what he did after the publication of his book, *Kenya Return to Reason*, he wrapped that medal in a piece of paper and sent one of his aides to return it to State House because it had become a disgrace in his living room at Rara Ridge.

Ken told Kenyans that the medal had become useless since it had also been awarded to thugs and looters of the country's economy and since he did not belong to any of those classes, he felt comfortable without it.

That is all very fine. But let me ask you dear FORD-A chairman: When were thugs and looters of out economy born? I am sure you would want to say soon after 1988.

But let me remind you that at the time you were awarded that medal, right at your doorstep was the shameful theft of funds for the 1986-All Africa Games that was perpetrated by some bigwigs in the Ministry of Culture and Social Services.

I am sure you are not hearing about that theft for the first time. How come you forgot about it so soon, received your medal that same year and even called a press conference to say *amane sana* for being recognised by the Head of State from other millions of Kenyans? Why did you realise when it is so late that you have nothing in common with thugs and looters Mr FORD-A chairman?

The 25-year marriage of the Aga Khan and his wife Sally is, I understand heading towards its sad conclusion. The still stunning Begum, 54, has sought legal advice from

two London barristers. She is seeking to divorce the Aga Khan, who is the spiritual leader of the 12-million Ismailia Moslems.

Although lawyers in Britain are quiet about the looming divorce, speculation is rife in many quarters that the marriage may be headed for the rocks.

A divorce for the Aga Khan?

It was in 1969 that the Aga Khan married Sally, the former wife of the 6th Marquess of Bute's brother, Lord James Crichton-Stuart. Lord James had been granted a divorce in 1968 on the grounds of her desertion.

In 1967, Harper's Bazar, one of the leading fashion shops in Britain rated her as one of the 12 most beautiful women in the world and at the beginning, this exotic union of East and West appeared as the fulfillment of every young girl's romantic fantasy.

In recent years, according to the British press, there has been a growing estrangement. The Aga Khan's name has been linked with a number of other women and the Begum feels she can stand it no more.

It was, friends say, only a matter of time before matters came to a head. That time appears to have come. Let us wait and see.

Wages Increase: what a shame!

I read with shame the wage increase for non-graduate teachers announced the other day. I was not ashamed because I have a sister who is a teacher. Nay, it is because of the peanuts that those men and women of the chalk were awarded in the name of an increment.

Did you, dear readers, realise that the most that the highest paid teacher in that category was added was a paltry Sh 170? Did you also learn that some were only awarded Sh 40?

We are talking of a situation where an SI teacher will earn less than Sh 4,000 and still talk about having received a wage increase in the critical year of inflation 1994.

In these days of jet-set inflation, a teacher expiring that kind of money can never be expected to answer that call of duty to that once noble profession that we used to associate with only the tough and well-read men and women in our village.

I remember with nostalgia those days that ordinary mortals were never allowed to let their eyes meet with those of the teacher.

I remember those days when a friend of my mother, who happened to be a teacher made me hide in the bushes the whole day whenever she visited our home because I could not imagine associating with such a tough person outside the classroom.

Theology

Dealing with socio-economic crisis

For a whole week a fortnight ago Kenyans were treated to "an economic literacy" lecture with such acronyms as "SAPs", "IMF", "IDBA" and "World Bank" being mouthed by the big and small.

Our political, business, church and trade union leaders used the words in their addresses profusely. The main theme was the lamentation over the social and economic woes that the country is going through.

The Book of Nehemiah (5:1-13) has an interesting story. People are lamenting the oppression they are going through caused by their leaders and the rich. The economic and social crises are similar to what Kenya has been going through. People were unable to feed themselves. They even sold their children to buy food! They had to get loans to pay for the food. To add to the food crisis, they had to borrow money to pay for the taxes to maintain the luxurious expenditure of the emperor, the governor and all other administrative officers.

Faced with these problems Nehemiah, the God-fearing leader had to look for a solution. It was difficult for him to lead people undergoing such socio-economic problems. He knew that the cause lay with the leaders and he had to approach (reproach) them first. A private meeting was not enough and therefore he called a public rally to challenge them to stop their bad practice.

This is what we would like to see happen when Kanu meets to discuss SAPs. Nehemiah had challenged the hawk: "Should you not walk in the fear of our God?" (verse 9). He appealed to their faith and morals. After the leaders agreed to act well, the public who came to witness the occasion acclaimed AMEN, "Praise the Lord!"

Immediately after independence our leaders borrowed to build the new Kenya. They continued to borrow and to receive grants. They started projects, some of which were nothing but "white elephants".

Others were mismanaged by unqualified and corrupt officers. The country was also borrowing heavily for military build up - military not to protect themselves from outside enemies but to fight their own subjects! When the time came to repay, the country was only able to service the debts but not her subjects.

The International Monetary Fund - a sort of savings and credit co-operative society of which Kenya is a member - introduced steps on how to cope with the repayment methods. Acting on behalf of the World Bank of which Kenya is also a member, Structural Adjustment Programmes were formulated.

Among other things SAPs mandated that the government cut down on its expenditure.

By Jephthah Gathaka (Rev)

On social activities such as education and health, people were therefore asked to cost-share. Kenyans had to contribute more for education and health facilities. As a result many have lacked education and thousands die from lack of health (medical) facilities.

The most affected are women and children. Liberalisation dictates that the government should not subsidize the cost in farming and therefore the cost of food products sky rocket.

The government is fully to blame for the mess we are in. I hate SAPs and their policies because they do not have a face of human value. However, because of its mismanagement the government has put us into this situation. Let's therefore see how Nehemiah dealt with the crisis.



The most vulnerable... even in urban areas, women are worst affected in times of crisis. Our picture shows women fetching water from a communal tank in Kibera.

People's outcry (Verses 1-3)

These verses show us that there was a serious outcry from the common people who were oppressed. The inclusion of the "wives" here is intended to show us that the cry was coming from all the citizens and especially those who were affected most. The women were actually on the receiving end. When it comes to implementing the SAPs women suffer most, especially in the African set-up where they have to fetch water, firewood, food and at the same time take care of their families.

Even in the urban set-up the practice is the same. When there is no water in the taps you find women going to fetch water with pales on their heads. During the scarcity of cooking gas you find them with empty gas cylinders moving from one petrol station to another. In health centres and hospitals women are the majority with children queuing to be served. Nehemiah shows clearly

that women joined men in the outcry. President Moi talked about people rioting because of food. This happened in Zambia a few years ago. Though in SAPs the offenders could be the IMF and the World Bank, in this verse the wanananchi were "rioting" against their Jewish brothers. I am no prophet of doom but soon the wanananchi may riot against our leaders who have mismanaged the economy.

I am no inciter but soon you will find the "wananchi" rioting against leaders who have stolen from the public coffers and made Kenyans pay through their noses that which was borrowed in their name but went to a few people's pockets.

Overpopulation (Verse 2)

Overpopulation has been described as one of the causes why debts could not be repaid.

to mortgage their land to get food in return. There was famine which had been caused by the fact that people were busy building the wall. They had no time to till land.

However, there were rich people who were able to get grain. These were now asking for other people's title deeds in order to give them food. If they did not repay, their land would be sold.

This is exactly what happens today. Those who had borrowed to improve their land and pay school fees, etc. are having their land sold at throw away prices by the banks. Mainly this happens to the poor peasants while the rich who owe millions to the same banks are allowed to continue unless they happen to be in the wrong political party.

Taxes (verse 4)

Others, we are told, were

thing. This is the advice one gets in many shops. In their efforts to help the mwananchi they rob the government.

The newly established Road Maintenance Levy Fund passed by parliament recently will severely affect the poor mwananchi. Everything will be passed onto him/her while very little may get to the government coffers.

When the money is used wrongly then there will be no funds to repay the loans or to maintain the roads. If the roads are not maintained then transportation business is hampered and the economy ruined.

What Kanu should address when it meets to discuss SAPs should be the wastage of the tax payers' money by unnecessary public rallies, buying defectors, military parades on national days and dubious export compensation of non-existent gold as happened with the Goldenberg scam.

Social Ills (Verse 5)

Verse 5 is distressing to read. The people wonder what difference there is between their children and those of the leaders and the rich. They lament "now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children are as their children..." They then cry that their children are subjected to humiliation by being forced to child labour or being made prostitutes or secondary wives.

This is a sad affair. But it happened and it happens "now and henceforth". Child labour, because of economic strains, is rampant. You have heard or seen child prostitutes. You may have witnessed those boys and girls who go to harvest coffee in the estates.

What other slavery is bigger than this? Whoever is subjecting the wanananchi to these woes must repent.

Solution (verse 6-13)

Verse 6 says that Nehemiah was angry "when I heard their outcry and these words". He had what we would call holy anger. Could this have been what happened to President Moi when he decided to call the Kanu meeting to discuss SAPs and food crisis?

In verse 7, after Nehemiah had pondered the matter within himself he called the leaders and the rich people.

He brought "charges" against these "nobles and the officials". Charges must be brought against those who have exported food (maize). Charges must be brought against those who have plundered the public coffers by approving exports compensation for non-existent gold. George Saitoti, Wilfred Koinange, Kamlesh Patel, Eric Kibet and others must not be spared.

Charges must be brought against those who have

lions outside the country. These are the cause of problems. Charges must be brought against all Kanu leaders who delayed the legislation of the multi-party system causing the international community to sideline economically.

Charges must be brought against the perpetrators of politically-motivated clashes who have made it difficult for Rift Valley Province, our food granary, to produce anything. When Kanu meets it should consider bringing up these charges. The IMF and the World Bank are not the cause of the food crisis. It is our leaders who are our enemies.

It is illogical for Kanu to think that it can solve an economic crisis single-handedly. An economy cannot thrive in a political environment which does not reward the contribution which could be made by half of its leaders and does not recognize the legitimacy of two thirds of its voters.

It is time the ruling party and the administration recognized the importance of the opposition. To what extent was the opposition involved in the recent African Development Bank meeting? The verse mentions the sins of the leaders and when they were not fully convinced, Nehemiah called a public meeting. It is called "great assembly". That is what our leaders need - a tribune before the whole assembly.

In verse 8 Nehemiah reminded the leaders that they did not redeem their brethren to make them their slaves. The leaders did not have a thing to answer. There was no need of fighting for political independence for the leaders to subject wanananchi to socio-economic slavery.

Fear of the Lord

The further challenge that this God-fearing leader put to his people is the "fear of the Lord". He challenges them: "Should you not walk in the fear of our God?" He is asking or compelling them to fear God and do what is right.

My boss, the NCKC General Secretary, the other day challenged our country to rethink their morals. His challenge, when echoed by the German ambassador, was not taken lightly by our leaders.

This is mainly because they think that walking into the church every Sunday is the same as "walking in the fear of the Lord". If all Kenyans walked in the fear of the Lord then this country would be different. We would not be having these socio-economic woes.

Nehemiah, like St Paul, gave his own example and admitted his own shortcomings in verse 10. He says: "Moreover I and my brothers and my servants..." He then exhorts everyone to stop bad

Social Affairs

Vaccine likely to reduce deaths from cervical cancer

By a Correspondent

About 900,000 women a year worldwide are at risk of cancer of the cervix, including about 450,000 diagnosed cases and just as many with early symptoms of the disease. Three-quarters of the total are in developing nations. Globally, 300,000 women die from cervical cancer every year, and again, the majority

of these deaths occur in poorer countries.

Research leading towards a vaccine that would provide protection against the disease is already under way in a number of countries. Latest progress reports on the research were presented at an international conference, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), which opened in Paris on April 6.

"A cervical cancer vaccine

is of tremendous importance, but is still some years away. Meantime, the challenge is to educate and empower millions of women in developing countries to recognize the early warning signals of the disease and to seek medical advice," Dr Jan Stjernsward, chief of the Cancer and Palliative Care Unit at WHO headquarters in Geneva, and a speaker at the conference, said.

Cancer of the cervix is second only to breast cancer in the global incidence of female cancers. Most women are over 35 years old when diagnosed, but the disease usually begins to develop at a much younger age. These early symptoms can be accurately detected and successfully treated through national screening programmes in which women have a cervical smear test at least once every

five years.

To be most effective, these programmes must be planned in accordance with the principles for national cancer control programmes established by WHO in 1984. With such a system a reduction of at least 60% in incidence and mortality from the disease is possible.

However, although most industrialized countries have screening programmes, many poorer nations lack the resources to establish them. Without them, 85% of the women with cervical cancer die.

In recent years, researchers have found a strong link between the disease and infection of the cervix by the human papillomavirus, which causes genital warts, and which is sexually transmitted. Research teams are trying to produce a vaccine that neutralizes the virus and which would thereby prevent the cancer developing.

Meanwhile, new understanding of how tumour cells lose or change their ability to interact with adjacent cells and tissues could lead to better therapies to treat cancer and stop it spreading round the body, a British expert told a breast cancer conference in Bruges.

Dr Joyce Taylor-Papadimitriou, who heads the epithelial cell growth laboratory at the London-based Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), said: "All our cells that make up normal tissue are held in place by sticky chemicals called adhesion molecules."

"When this system becomes disrupted, as in breast cancer, the architecture of the tissue changes, allowing tumour cells to break away and make a journey around the body. They can then settle down elsewhere, start to grow and form new tumours."

"This process is called metastasis and, when cancer causes death, metastasis is usually the reason."

Up to a third of breast cancer patients have tumour cells with high levels of a protein called c-erbB-2, and scientists have already discovered that these women are more likely to relapse - even if the tumours are confined to the breast and have not spread to the lymph glands, a situation where the outlook would usually look promising.

Dr Taylor-Papadimitriou's research team has expressed the c-erbB-2 protein in normal breast cells to see how the protein might change their behaviour. They found the cells change so that they cannot make two of the adhesion molecules that are essential for holding the cells in place, thus creating the opportunity for the cells to spread.

This effect is entirely due to signals coming from the c-erbB-2 protein. When these signals are abolished by blocking the protein with an antibody, the adhesion molecules can again be made.

using contraceptives widely available to clients has been hailed as the rational solution to enhancing women's health and widening reproductive choices available to them. However, this is said of the risks of unformed use.

Some experts argue that contraceptives pouring into Africa may be doing more harm than good, especially when they fail to achieve the desired results in women. In fact the campaign for wider contraceptive use has raised ethical questions surrounding abortion as a solution to contraceptive failure.

Dr Stephen Karanja, a Kenyan gynaecologist based at Kenyatta National (KNH) in Nairobi, one of Africa's largest referral hospitals, has reservations about contraception. In his long years of practice, he has found that many women accept contraception without a thorough check and without understanding the side-effects, some of which have had disastrous results.

The media recently told a college audience in Machakos that although contraceptives were meant to enable women to enjoy sexual intercourse without worrying about a possible pregnancy, these drugs and devices exposed their users to a number of risks.

He says whereas progesterone injection, one of the three best known contraceptive methods, was common in Kenya, its use was highly restricted in the United States of America and Europe, where it was found to have caused more harm than good.

In fact, it is said that overuse of contraceptives may have resulted in a loss of generation in Europe, a continent that now depends more on guest workers to run its industries, because its population is composed of the young and the aged.

Between 150 mg and 250 progesterone could be injected after every two to three months into a woman to suppress the hormones released by the ovaries and pituitary gland in the brain. The drug also reduces the mobility of eggs in the fallopian tube and interferes with the environment needed in the uterus to sustain the fertilised egg.

"Unfortunately," doctors are failing in their duty when they do not inform their patients of the possible effects



Women attending a clinic: Do they have a choice in choosing the contraceptive to use?

Contraceptives: Free, informed choice needed

There is need to assist women in making an informed and free choice of the contraceptives targeted at them, Juliana Omale reports following a proliferation of population control drugs in African countries.

However, he attributes this to shortage of staff in hospitals. Kenya has had trouble with sustaining personnel to man its health facilities. The few available doctors find it difficult to cope with the large population of clients forcing them to limit examination of their patients to a few minutes in order to attend to as many cases as possible.

Ignorance

Addition health facilities are few and unevenly distributed in Kenya, especially in the rural areas where 80 per cent of women live, thereby frustrating medical follow-ups. But perhaps more disturbing is the ignorance of women concerning their choices and options.

Depo-provera has been linked to excessive weight gain and raised blood pressure as well as decreased libido. The result is disenchantment in the family, straining the relationship between husband and wives.

Experts say high progesterone level interferes with a woman's hormones, causing bad or low moods and contributing to sexual insensitivity.

wives have low libido are prone to impotence and low self esteem following repeated let downs. They are more likely to seek the comfort of other women outside marriage," Dr Karanja, a strong proponent of natural family planning says.

This is one social effect of contraception that few will care to expose mainly because Africans regard sex as sacred and are still reluctant to discuss it openly.

Depo-provera, says Dr Karanja, is usually associated with vaginal discharge and if timely hygienic measures are not taken, it produces an off-putting odour. It becomes more troublesome in communities where women's access to water is restricted to a bare minimum, especially in harsh climatic environments.

The trouble is that treatment for this condition is expensive and many women cannot afford it, more so in the difficult economic times dictated by structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) that have seen the erosion of incomes and a deeper plunge into poverty.

The intra-uterine device (IUD), another contraceptive widely used by Kenyan women, is said to aggravate

existing cervical infections and lesions, especially at the time of insertion into a woman's uterus. The damage could eventually be so severe leading to complications of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and eventual infertility.

Dr Karanja is of the opinion that many of his colleagues do not examine clients thoroughly to rule out existing infections, especially sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), despite existing data that indicate 45 per cent of sexually active women in a general population are infected.

The implications are alarming. Early 1984, another medic, Dr T N Mulandi found the prevalence of some STDs, especially chlamydia trachomatis - associated with gonorrhoea, PID and infertility - was as high as 7.5 per cent in a rural population of pregnant women.

Another study by Dr Shirat Abdulla revealed that 17.5 per cent of women attending family clinics at KNH, had gonorrhoea.

Infertility

From these studies, it was concluded that IUDs greatly increased the risk of PID in users. The statistics tell part of the story. At KNH alone, a large proportion of the 300 women attend gynaecology clinics every week complain of infertility, says Dr Karanja.

In Africa, infertility is a tragic and stigmatising condition, especially for a woman. In many cultures a woman's social and economic status depends on the number of children she has.

The preliminary report of the 1993 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey states that although contraceptives prevalence rate among married women in the country increased only moderately from 28 to 33 per cent since 1989, there has been remarkable shifts in the types of contraceptives used.

The use of injectable contraceptives doubled between 1989 and 1993 as did the use of the contraceptive pill. Female sterilisation and IUD use only increased nominally. Overall, contraceptives use rose steadily up through age groups, declining after age 35.

The pill and the calendar rhythm were common among women aged between 15 and 24 years, but were replaced by injection for women between ages 25 and 29. This trend continued through ages 30 to 34.

Older women preferred sterilisation, with a few opting for injection and IUD use. Nonetheless, the advice of Dr Karanja is too important to ignore: that women's choice of contraception must be based on freedom and knowledge of its benefits versus side effects. *AWC Features*

May is regarded throughout the world as the month of workers. It is the month every labourer looks forward to hearing the good news of an increase in his/her pay packet.

But the mood in which this year's Labour Day celebrations were conducted in Kenya was cloudy. The government's announced new scales of the minimum salaries and a general increment of civil servants' salaries.

However, these incentives have been dismissed as coming too late and with no difference at all to the falling standard of living of the man in the street.

The living standard of the common man took a plunge at the beginning of the 1990s when the Kenya government was forced to accept harsh terms imposed by the Bretton Woods Institutions — the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — for further disbursement of aid.

The first of these most unpopular conditions came by way of cost-sharing in nearly all the sectors of the social service ranging from health to education services. The effects of Structural Adjustment Programme hit the common man hardest as the government removed most of subsidies on essential items.

One of the harshest taxation measures was the introduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) in virtually all the services rendered, including medical consultation.

Kenya is among the most highly taxed and most lowly paid workers in the world.

They are also a very enterprising people. This notwithstanding, there are more and more cases of adults and children dying due to starvation and as a result of lack of money to buy prescribed drugs.

People Target talked to about the plight of the Kenyan worker did not mince words in condemning the government for abandoning its duties of ensuring that at least every Kenyan was not exposed to the kind of suffering he/she is going through.

Some blamed the cancerous corruption now entrenched in Kenya while others felt there was unfair distribution of resources such that some people had more than they needed. Others barely have anything to call their own.

Miss Hellen Katangie, a secretary to the chief executive of one of East Africa's leading multinationals reacted to the question on how the common worker was coping with the present conditions: "Haki tunaumia sana (we are really suffering). She said there was nobody who cared for the common man."

"If the salary is increased by 20 per cent, other services such as electricity and water are increased by 50 or a 100 per cent. I blame our leaders who are the ones who have misused the economy to much."

"They have reached a point of no return and now they don't know what to do. The only way this country will

improve the economy is to reduce the massive corruption around us," she said.



Miss Hellen Katangie... Haki tunaumia sana.

Miss Katangie said most parents had stopped sending their children to City Council schools because teachers in those schools were not concentrating on teaching as they had to carry other side businesses to survive.

When asked why President Moi could not stop the corruption in the country, she reported that he was just one person among 26 million Kenyans who were corrupt. That was why his preaching to end corruption had continued to fall on deaf ears, she said.

Miss Katangie's views were contrasted by those of Ma Rebecca Kamina, a saleslady with a local daily. She felt that the government ought to review the salaries of all workers and if possible give them a 100 per cent increment. She reasoned that the recent announcement of 20 per cent increase was just "too little" to make any difference.

Another factor compounding the plight of the workers, according to Ms Kamina, was the removal of price controls especially those essential foodstuffs.

She called on the government to consider re-introducing price controls on those items which the common man used daily.



Ma Rebecca Kamina... Incrementi too little.

Asserting that the ordinary life due to hardships, she reasoned that if the situation did not change, many workers

Public Podium

For Kenyan workers, the cost of living is impossible

By Jeff Mbure

would be forced to go back to the rural areas.

However, Ms Kamina asked: "Will they manage in the rural areas?" She was certain that at least in the rural areas they could survive on subsistence farming. She mentioned the watchmen as a typical class of Kenyans very disadvantaged economically.

Her appeal was that the government and the private sector should seriously consider pushing up the salaries to bring them in line with the cost of living.

Another possibility, she said, was to consider giving out loans to the 'jua kali' artisans and to others who were at the bottom of the lifeline. This way, they could be made self-reliant to a certain degree to supplement their meagre incomes.

An open air beverages businessman, Mr Peter Musyoka narrated his struggle



Mr Peter Musyoka... Stealing is bad.

to get paid employment. It was impossible to get employment, so he went into the business of selling sodas in the open.

Married with two children, Mr Musyoka, who lives in Mathare next to the Air Force base, admitted that he did not make enough money to live on.

"There is no work any where and stealing is very bad," is how he summarised the present situation in the country. "It is better to get something small for each day. What else can one do?", he posed.

During weekdays Mr Musyoka sells sodas in the city centre along the Aga Khan Walk but moves to where there are public events during weekends to sell his sodas. During what he called bad days, he sells only one crate which earned him Sh 24, not enough for his lunch, transport plus food for his family.

During good days and at the end of the month, he can

sell two to three crates, again not enough for his daily needs.

To supplement his soda takings, he also sells cakes. He started by selling ice-creams. But he is convinced that what he was doing was the best job for the time being.

Mr Robinson Archie Ila, an employee of a pharmacy in



Mr Robinson Archie Ila... Put trust in God.

the city centre, was resting in a public park reading his Bible. A firm believer in the power of the Creator to control the destiny of man, he summed up the crisis facing Kenyans: "The real healer of the economy is God".

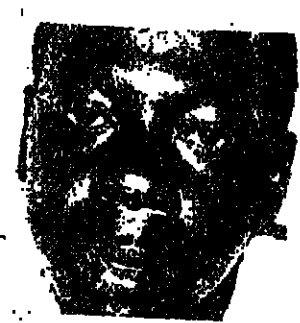
Admitting that life was a challenge every day, the young Christian discounted the theory that a rise to a higher office meant a guarantee to happiness. He said that according to the Scriptures, whatever man got could not be enough unless he involved God.

He qualified this by noting that no matter how much a person earned he/she could not be satisfied unless he identified with Christ. "The economic ills facing man are directly related to man's spiritual well being", claimed Mr Ila.

"The neglected Jesus Christ is the one who can heal and combat the economic problems Kenyans are facing", he said.

He gave the example of a person who drives a Mercedes Benz and everybody around him thinks that he is satisfied yet he is not as the more he gets the more he continues to face other economic problems.

"I'm really feeling the pinch of my low pay. I squarely blame the management. Inflation is very high and there is no reasonable increment to offset its effects. Even those who got some rises this month, as the increases were too little to match the rising prices of commodities," observed Mr



Mr Elton Mitaki... tackle inflation first.

Elton Mitaki, an employee of a communications firm at the city centre.

Mr Mitaki appealed to the authorities to first tackle the problem of inflation. In so doing, it should pay special attention to the plight of those who are unemployed. He wondered how this particular group was coping with life as he gave a breakdown of how the prices of essential commodities had sharply risen in the last few years. In some cases the rise had been by more than 1,000 per cent.

Blaming some of the woes the workers faced on the government, Mr Mitaki noted that a house maid in Nairobi earned more than a teacher and wondered how such a teacher was expected to concentrate all his energy in his profession with such a low pay.

An employee of a publishing firm, Mr Esmen J.K. Obonyo felt that the national budget should also consider the prices of common items, particularly foodstuffs, before it was presented. While everyone was doing his best to cope with the hard times, there was a danger that the prices of most items would continue to rise beyond the reach of the ordinary person.

He cited electricity, water,



Mr Esmen J.K. Obonyo... Where we can afford is chaos.

rent and school fees which had shot up considerably without a parallel increase in salaries. This had made the common man to suffer considerably to an extent that the majority of the workers today could not afford three square meals a day. Some had be-

come accustomed to simply having one poor meal a day to keep alive.

"Where we claim we are in order, it is chaos. This is spoiling everything, including our relationship with our girlfriends as we can no longer afford to take them out even for a simple meal," he how Mr Obonyo summed up the pathetic situation of young workers.

A young officer working with a multinational firm, Mr Jared Lamet lamented that his pay was far from enough due to inflation. As a result, he was experiencing many difficulties in trying to make ends meet.

He wished that the government could consider reducing prices of basic items in addition to re-introducing price controls. Another proposal he put forward was that since living in urban areas like Nairobi was expensive, companies and the government ought to award workers in these areas good pay.

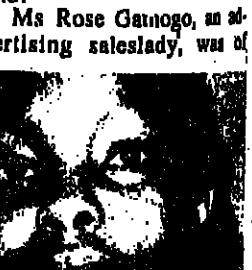
On SAPs, Mr Lamet said they were not implementable in developing countries like Kenya. Since the basic salaries in Kenya were low, the SAPs only brought an additional problem to families.

Another devastating effect had been brought by the removal of price controls which had led to the exploitation of



Mr Jared Lamet... SAPs not implementable here.

the common man by traders since they charged any price they wished for the goods. The government must work hard to ensure the re-statement of price control, he said.



Ms Rose Gathogo... Protect vulnerable groups first.

the opinion that as the cost of living rose, employers should consider adjusting salaries accordingly.

She explained that the lowly paid workers were the most vulnerable group and they should be considered first when it came to reviewing salaries.

Another vulnerable group, according to Ms Gathogo, were the urbanites as everything was expensive in towns. She appealed that they be given special consideration when salaries were reviewed.

Ms Gathogo blamed the government for the high inflation in the country. "It is only when the prices of the essential items will have come down to affordable levels that the plight of the mwananchi will be brightened up," she reasoned.

Features

What ails Pumwani maternity Hospital?

Overcrowding and appalling bad conditions continue at Kenya's Pumwani Maternity Hospital, where thousands of women go for delivery. Pumwani, one of the first hospitals to be established in the country and which is still one of the largest maternity facilities in Africa, has in the past few years owed its survival to a group of dedicated workers - doctors, midwives and other subordinate staff.

They have kept things going even in the worst of circumstances when a lot of basic medical equipment was lacking. Unfortunately, the situation is getting worse now and the workers' spirit is sinking low. Their dedication is weathering by the day, and before long, everything might grind to a halt, unless urgent remedial measures are taken.

But this is just a tip of the iceberg of the suffering African women undergo as they seek medical care in health facilities that are themselves ailing.

Attempts to privatise the hospital, said to be the only concrete step that could put it back to its feet, has sadly failed to materialise.

In fact, it is now common knowledge that women are afraid of visiting the 350-bed capacity hospital, fearing that they might not be taken good care of.

Established in the colonial days as Lady Grig Welfare League, Pumwani is now famous for its lack of essential medical equipment, including linen. Simple things like bandages for dressing, gloves for protecting doctors and other necessities are mere luxuries.

There is fear in the capital Nairobi that the low morale or the declining dedication among Pumwani workers might cost Kenyans dearly in

Kenya's Pumwani Maternity Hospital, one of the biggest maternity facilities in Africa, is notorious for its lack of medical equipment and drugs. For a long time, the hospital has continued to function because of the dedication of its staff. This commitment is now weathering away, threatening the service of the hospital. Beatrice Malegwa reports.

a short while. For example, deliberate efforts are being made by the hospital management to create congestion at the hospital so that patients are turned away and save the workers the agony of caring for them.

Investigations have revealed that while patients are crowded into few wards, with others sharing beds, yet there are a number of other wards stocked with beds lying uncoupled.

One source, who sought anonymity said only 100 of the 350 beds were occupied at any one time and the overcrowding was not only a deliberate calculation but also resulted from an alleged "laxity" by the staff.

So what's going on? They claim there is little space which can only accommodate few patients thereby limiting admission. There are also sometimes when laundering facilities have provided good excuses, more often they are said to be out of order. But what's the real situation? Sources within the hospital confirmed that some wards are empty and a good number of spare beds and mattresses are lying idle.

And so expectant women, including those who can afford, are being forced to look for alternative maternity care. Indeed, surveys by this writer showed that sharing of beds by expectant mothers is common. This has increased the spread of communicable diseases.

Inhuman

Hospital statistics indicate that about 45 mothers are admitted daily to Pumwani during low season, the figures rise to 71 during peak period from July to October.

Ms Dorcas Wambui, a teenage mother who recently delivered at the hospital complains about her treatment there, which she calls 'inhuman'. She says, "a more professional and caring attitude from those who work there is needed."

Ms Wambui also feels the need for more health facilities for Kenyans who cannot afford the high charges in private hospitals, which are said to offer better treatment.

The hospital superintendent, Dr Naushad Molodina is said to be dedicated, but his efforts are curtailed by lack of cash. He has on various occasions expressed concern at the shortages of staff, transfusion blood and the poor financial status of the hospital.

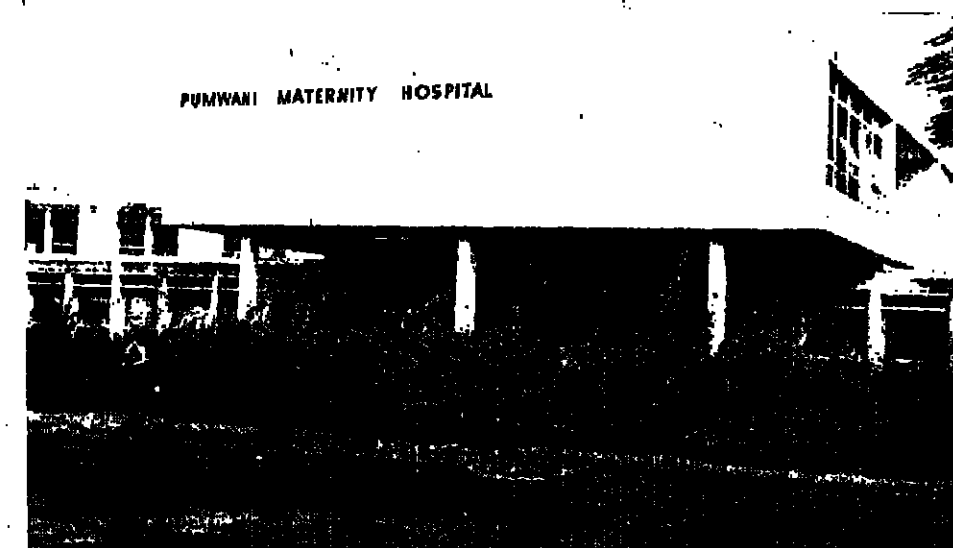
He was recently reported to have said that the city civic authority, which runs the hospital, had allowed him to retain Sh 18,750 out of the Sh 25,000 or \$288 out of \$384 (75 per cent) they collect daily from patients in the cost sharing programme to meet their operational costs.

In fact the initial aim of cost-sharing was to re-invest the money collected from patients into the respective hospitals through purchase of medical supplies and in the long run make them self-sustaining.

But some informed sources say the cost sharing programme fetches enough cash to run the hospital with just a little assistance from City Hall, although some complicated delivery cases could drive the expenses higher.

Whatever the case, it is shameful that lack of funds should cripple such an essential utility, leading to the precarious situation prevailing at the hospital currently.

A move to privatise the hospital was recently rejected by councillors who are known more for playing politics than dealing with the problems facing the city. The last



The towering giant... Pumwani Maternity Hospital where thousands of babies are born annually and which is now bedevilled by cash problems. BELOW: The now completed Nyayo Ward across the road. The occupants are mosquitoes, rats and other vermin.



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est reports from City Hall indicate that the privatisation move has been shelved. Nairobi Mayor Steve Mwanga has made it clear that none of the council's 42 health facilities would be sold to individuals.

Essential

In 1989, the then City Commission confessed that it could not run services at the Pumwani Maternity Hospital, among other essential social services. The Commission therefore campaigned for the introduction of a levy to enable it improve its services.

Today, city residents are paying service charge and the

situation is better. Would it not be better to privatise the hospital? Some authorities agree that this would be one way out of the problem.

But hospital workers interviewed expressed diverse views. While some agreed that privatisation would improve efficiency, others were worried of losing their jobs if the move is taken.

Mr Humphrey Thimbas, a lecturer at the University of Nairobi, is cautious and says privatisation would only "better services to the public, given there is efficient and effective management system and disbursement of the resources."

YMCA celebrates 150th birthday

By Michael Leech

A worldwide organisation spanning 100 countries and serving more than 30 million members is celebrating its 150th birthday this year.

Many events are planned around the milestone date this month, but the Young Men's Christian Association YMCA had a very simple birth. It was founded by a group of earnest young men in a bare room in London, a place very different from the City of London today. Its founder was an idealistic countryman who had come to town from south-west England to find fame and fortune.

On Aikway Farm near the small town of Davenport in Somerset Hills, George Williams was born in 1821. He had an uneventful upbringing, going to school in

nearby Tiverton. When he left he was unsure what he wanted to do, and began working on his father's farm. He was not very successful on the land, and went to Bridgewater to be apprenticed to a draper.

As an apprentice in this market town he was expected to attend church. There he converted into "an enthusiastic Christian" at 16. Williams then went to London to continue his career and seek a fortune, carrying his enthusiasm with him.

Working for a big London draper in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral, he found himself surrounded by 140 of the estimated 150,000 young male shop workers in Lon-

don. Here George Williams felt it was his destiny to change the lives of his workmates by sharing his faith. Young shop-workers of the early Victorian era had a hard life of drudgery, working very long hours for small recompense and not surprisingly many sought escape in their brief hours of freedom in drinking and gambling.

Together with a few colleagues, the idealistic Williams was determined to try to help them with prayer meetings and education. His success led to the founding, 150 years ago, of the new society. It was "to influence young men to spread the redeemer's kingdom amongst those by whom they are surrounded".

So it was that at a meeting

on June 6, 1844 the YMCA was born. Within five years, the headquarters at Gresham Street had a library, reading rooms and classes in English, arithmetic and foreign languages.

Foreign

George Williams continued an active business life in the drapery business and went on to head the firm after marrying his employer's daughter. On the 50th anniversary of the YMCA he was knighted by Queen Victoria and awarded the Freedom of the City of London. By this time there were more than 400 groups within the YMCA. When he died in 1905 he was given a grand funeral and is buried in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, London.

The movement spread rapidly in the 1840s, other sites in London, Leeds and Manchester. Later Taunton and Bath marked the rapid progress of the YMCA. Very

The firm he worked for, Hitchcock and Rogers, has long vanished but the visitor can walk in the restored area of St Paul's Churchyard (now Paternoster Square) where Williams once worked, and also visit the enormous crypt of the cathedral to see his grave.

On June 5 a plaque will be installed on the site of the shop where, upstairs in a bedroom, the very first YMCA meetings were held. You can cross Blackfriars Bridge too, not far off, where it is believed Williams first mooted the idea of a wider organisation to a friend.

The movement spread rapidly in the 1840s, other sites in London, Leeds and Manchester. Later Taunton and Bath marked the rapid progress of the YMCA. Very

soon the organisation took on an education as well as religious aspect bringing it to the attention of intellectuals. In just over a decade there were 40 associations outside London.

Today the YMCA is committed to helping the young, particularly in times of need, and provides accommodation for about 7,000 homeless young people every night. They provide recreational opportunities for youngsters who might otherwise be tempted into crime, and run health and fitness classes for young mothers with toddlers for instance.

The organisation has spread around the world, and is now active in over 100 countries, including Kenya. Turn to page 14

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Features



World War II soldiers (left) being served tea, at a YMCA centre while a resident at a London YMCA hostel (right) relaxes in her room.

YMCA celebrates 150th birthday

From page 13

responds to wars, famine and other disasters with speed and resourcefulness. One recent example was the sterling £300,000 that went to the Bombay YMCA to provide food, mobile clinics, medicine, blankets and shelter for earthquake victims.

Members take part in this work - the YMCA's Projects Unit in Britain identified tents as a priority, and arranged for them to be shipped out to Bombay with the help of volunteers from branches in Waltham Forest, Reading and Nottingham, while the education unit co-ordinated the work of volunteers loading and unloading supplies.

The organisation, now one of the world's largest Christian charities, will hold its world council at Warwick University from July 26 - August 2, this year.

Celebrations in 1994 will be concentrated this month and will take place in many British centres. No doubt one of the most poignant will be on the eve of the 150th birthday itself on June 5 at the parish church in Dulverton, which Williams would have known well.

Poignant

Dulverton is a venerable old town situated in the far west of Somerset, about 320 km from London, yet not far from the impressively scenic north coast of the county and such attractions as Dunster, Dunster Castle and Cleve Abbey.

Dulverton itself will be marking the 150th anniversary of the creation of its famous son with several events. There will be an exhibition at the Guildhall Heritage Centre from April to October, and on June 5 the Bishop of Bath and Wells will arrive in Dulverton for the service of thanksgiving at the parish church.

The service inaugurates Armada 150 when a commemorative plaque will be carried to London by groups of YMCA members - unusually it is being taken all the way by water. Upon arrival in London it will be installed at the site of that now famous first meeting on Paternoster Square by St Paul's. On July 17 a further service is to be held at the Congregational Church in Dulverton.

A host of national events range from a National Walk-out on April 30 to radio shows which will feature young talents all over Britain during June.

London Press Service

Dealing with socio-economic crisis

From page 10

Shall we ever have such leaders both in the church and the country? Will leaders be ready like Zacharias to restore what they have taken wrongly?

In verse 12, the nobles and the officials agreed "we will restore everything and demand nothing more from them". Let us hope that this

will be one of the resolutions to be made during the Kanan meeting now postponed indefinitely.

Nehemiah made the leaders take an oath and then acted confirm the oath. He "shook the fold of the garment". The oath was confirmed. Once what is acceptable to God is done, people will praise the Lord and confirm it with the "Amen".

Note that it was the whole public meeting that said Amen. Yes, the wasechi will answer to the call of Harambee Nyayo when they know that the right thing has been done.

The Rev. Gathaka is the director of NCCK's Justice, Peace and Reconciliation programme. He gave this sermon at St. Andrew's Church, Eastland on May 15.

Children's Corner

Apes hold schoolboy captive for 2 weeks

By Stanley Kimanga

I have been a captive for two weeks. I have spent those two weeks in a dream world but the many cold nights I was with the apes in the big cave dampened my childish love for adventure.

I also knew that my parents were anxiously looking for me everywhere in the village and could have given me up for dead. I remembered that day when the apes "kidnapped" me from the shamba and trembled at the thought of what might have happened to our maize crop.

Just imagine my mother coming to the shamba to find it plundered and her dear little son missing! My heart missed a beat as clearly saw tears running down her cheeks and a loud scream from her bringing my father to the shamba with a bow and arrows.

When I imagined all these things I knew I had to escape from the apes' captivity soon. But it was not easy to escape. For two weeks I had been virtually in jail.

The big female ape would not let me go out of the cave and there was no way I could escape when the male ape was present.

I had planned to escape when the male ape had gone to search for food but my attempts to do so had been thwarted by the female ape.

The bully would always station herself at the entrance of the cave when she slept and there was no way I could escape her notice. Other times I had tried to escape whenever the family took me out with them to the fields to look for food but I could not out-run them.

I remember one specific incident which still amuses me up to this day. I had accompanied the "couple" to the fields as I wondered from shamba to shamba stealing maize and fruits.

The female was carrying me on her back. When we approached my parents' shamba

I thought my chance to escape had come. But as I and my "adopted family" entered the shamba I could hear my mother shouting at the apes even though she could not see them.

A stone thrown by a sling almost hit the apes and as they ran away. The female ape in her hurry to escape dropped me. I started running towards the shamba shouting my mother's name.

Unfortunately the male ape hastily grabbed me and took me back to the bush.

When we returned to the cave, the "head of the family" - the male ape - gave me half a portion of my usual meal as a punishment. I had

But time was running out and I was getting more and more homesick. I wanted to escape by all means but I also knew that my "kidnappers" would punish me if they caught me in the act. So I decided to bide my time and devise a foolproof plan to outwit my "jailors."

I remembered that back at home my grandfather used to brew beer by fermenting fruits and soaking them in water. I also knew that maize, if well fermented, could make good beer.

Armed with this knowledge, I started accumulating as many fruits as possible. Whenever I got my share of the fruits I used to hide some at one corner of the cave and whenever my kidnappers left any maize I would steal some and soak it in the small stream that passed through the cave.

Nature worked on my side. The stream from which the apes used to drink their water was drying up due to the shortage of rains in the mountains and I thought it a good idea to block it partially to enable them to gulp down enough water for themselves.

That done, I crushed my fermented fruits and maize and waited for the "couple" to get pretty thirsty. It was not long before I realised that the apes were thirsty. I accompanied them to the stream and dropped my fermented fruits and maize into the blocked stream.

My unsuspecting captors drunk large amounts of the water when we returned to the cave I noted with satisfaction that they were dozing.

It was in the afternoon when I decided to escape from my "jailors." Silently, I tiptoed through the entrance of the cave and started running away. But as I passed through the other end I upset a stone which came crashing down and thereby awakened the apes.

I saw them give a start and howling drowsily started chasing me across the forest. However, the drunken apes could not catch up with me as they fell several times. Near the village, I heard the shouts of neighbours as they came out of their homes to witness the strange sight of two big apes chasing a little boy.

The two apes were chased away by the villagers and my mother wept with joy when she saw that I was safe and in good health despite my two weeks' imprisonment by the apes.

Cruel man changes into woman

By Kithome wa Nzavi

For five years, Kaleso had been harassing his wife Mukil for not being able to conceive.

"You have never been able to give birth since we married six years ago. I'll replace you with a better wife who will make my compound be littered with healthy children and not maize cobs as you can see," Mukil tried to make her husband see sense. "Let's hope that God will hear our prayers," she continued.

During an elders' meeting with Kaleso, he was told to be hopeful and stop harassing his innocent wife.

A couple of months later, Kaleso started having long sleepless nights, thinking about his security at old age and he often got cross with Mukil, referring to her as useless and a thorn in the flesh.

One day, Kaleso became very aggressive, beat up his wife and ordered her to sleep on the floor. After waking up from the cold floor in the morning, she decided that she had had enough of the marriage and took a few of her clothes and went back to her old parents.

Kaleso did not object to her going away. He thought that that was the solution to his long sleepless nights.

Mukil was welcomed by her parents with adoration. After her mother inspected the kiondo Mukil was carrying and finding only a few clothes, the mother was convinced that that was not a normal visit.

"What is wrong my daughter?" Mukil's old mother enquired.

"The man you gave me for husband is really harassing me, every now and then for not being able to bear him children. He keeps on beating me, orders me to sleep on the floor and often wishes you

had better given birth to a bread that could be of more use to you other than me," Mukil tearfully told her mother.

"My daughter, you see (pointing at her head) this white hair. It's a symbol of wisdom and if you take my advice seriously you will be able to rid yourself of your husband's harassment," the mother said.

"You see that big rock called Nzambani?" she asked her daughter.

"During our time it helped us a lot. After going round it seven times you charged sex," the old woman said as she supported herself with a walking stick. "You will be no exception. Tell your husband that you have got a solution to your problem."

Mukil felt pleased and invigorated. She went back immediately to her husband and told him that she had a solution to their problem. They both had to go to Nzambani and make seven rounds to be able to get children.

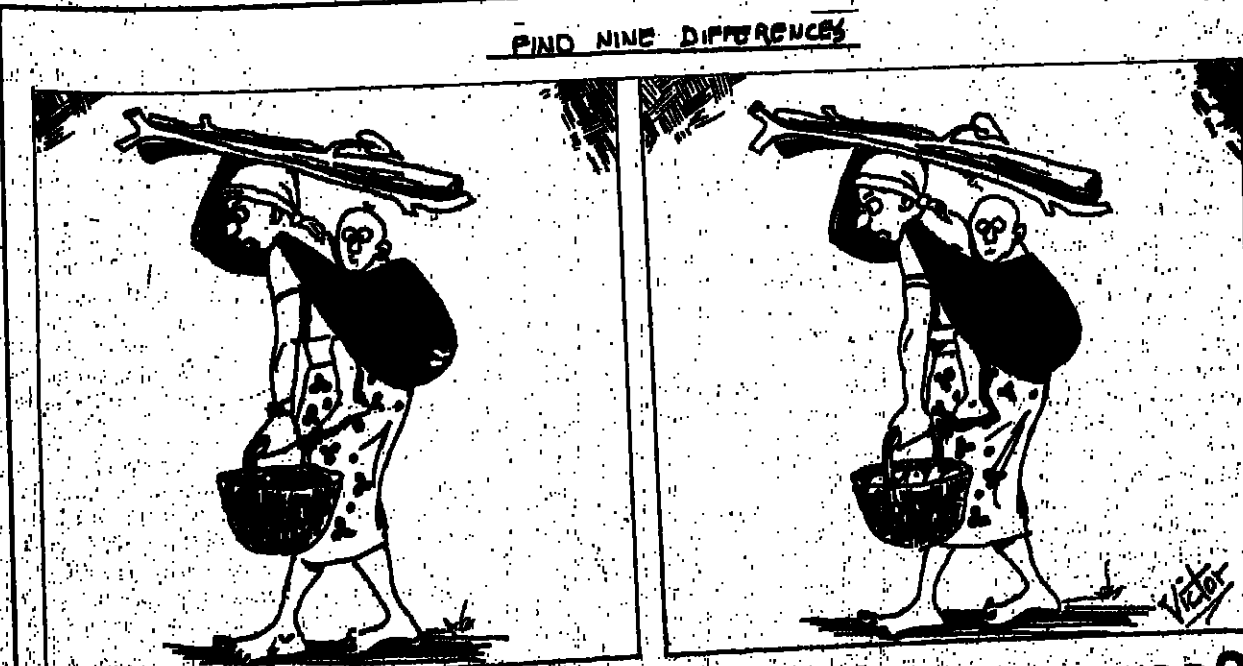
Upon hearing that Kaleso became very happy and thanked his wife for finding the solution to their problem. They set off for Nzambani.

After going round the rock for seven times, Mukil changed to a man and Kaleso became a woman.

Kaleso learnt that failing to conceive was natural and God's plan.



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